

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), as Senate legislative secretary, signs off on documents yesterday attesting to the Senate's passage of a number of bills during its session on Friday. The Senate will hold another session this Thursday, and the agenda could be amended to include a bill amending the controversial Saipan casino law once the House passes it today.



# Local

## CPA POSTS POSITIVE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 4 MONTHS

# Airport, seaport debt service ratios exceed trustee requirement

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority recorded positive financial performance for the first four months of the fiscal year, resulting in the agency's exceeding its required debt service ratios for both airport and seaport divisions.

In a report to the board of directors, CPA comptroller Skye Lynn Aldan disclosed that for

the period ending Jan. 31 this year, the airport division recorded a debt service ratio at 452 percent, while the seaport division posted its ratio at 174 percent. Both figures exceeded the 1.25 percentage debt coverage ratio requirement of the bond trustee.

Based on the bond indenture agreements, CPA is mandated to generate every fiscal year revenues that is equal to the agency's operating expenditures setting a

minimum 125 percent of required bond payments. Since 1998, the ports authority had issued revenue bonds including \$20.05 million in airport revenues; \$33.7 million for seaport bonds; and another \$7.225 million seaport bonds issued in 2005.

According to Aldan's report—from October 2013 through Jan. 31, 2014—airport registered a debt service ratio of 452 percent, or a surplus of 327 percent from the

required ratio of 1.25 percent which represents \$1.512 million from the total revenue requirement of \$577,669.

"For four months, debt coverage ratio is 552 percent or a surplus of 427 percent which represents \$493,377 from the total revenue requirement of \$144,417," indicated the comptroller's report that was presented last Friday by board fiscal committee chairperson Frances Mafnas.

Still for airport division, cash and equivalents available for operation totaled \$15.319 million, and after deduction on reserved the unreserved cash and equivalents available for CPA is approximately \$1.465 million.

As of Jan. 31 this year, Aldan disclosed that the airport division registered a net income of \$2.084 million, which was gained from operating revenues and expenses.

Records show that the airport division generated \$4.745 million as operating revenue as of Jan. 31, while expenses incurred year-to-date is \$2.660 million. For the airport division, total investment account balances as of Jan. 31 is at \$3.945 million.

### Seaport financial performance

For the seaport division, debt coverage ratio is at 174 percent or a surplus of 49 percent from the required ratio of 1.25, which represents \$507,941 from the total revenue requirement for the period ending Jan. 31, 2014. The debt coverage ratio is 206 percent, or a surplus of 81 percent, which represents \$210,516 from the total revenue requirement of \$324,537.

For cash and equivalents

available for operations at seaport, CPA posted \$18.134 million and after deduction on reserved the unreserved cash and equivalents available is approximately \$1.190 million.

As of Jan. 31, the seaport division registered a net income of \$1.727 million which was gained from operating revenues and expenditures. The division recorded total expenses in four months of \$503,056, while revenue generated year to date is \$2.230 million. For the division, total investment account balances as of Jan. 31 is \$14.602 million.

During Friday's board meeting, seaports facilities committee chair Benigno Sablan lauded the agency's accounting department for what he described is "an excellent report." Sablan noted that CPA had exceeded bond ratio requirements for both airport and seaport divisions.

For financial committee chair Frances Mafnas, CPA—based on the latest financial statements—is showing good financial standing. She cited the increased gross revenues coupled with controlled agency expenditures as key factors of the agency's continued positive financial performance.



### SHIRLEY'S BEACH CLEANUP

Shirley's Coffee Shop conducted its first cleanup of the year last Monday, March 24, at its adopted beach at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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# Wiseman denies Fitial's motion to dismiss himself from PPA lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday issued an order denying former governor Benigno R. Fitial's motion to dismiss himself as a party to a lawsuit filed by Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and others over the controversial \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman ruled that Fitial is not entitled to qualified immunity in this case.

Qualified immunity is an affirmative defense available to government officials who incur liability for some wrong committed within the scope of their employment, and operates to shield them from being held personally liable as a result of their wrongdoing.

Wiseman said Fitial's alleged conduct and reliance on the undocumented advice of then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham was unreasonable where there exists clear and unambiguous provisions of the CNMI constitution which explicitly proscribe his alleged conduct.

"The alleged facts, taken together as a totality of the circumstances, suggest that Fitial knew or should have known that his conduct violated the laws and constitution of the CNMI," said the judge in a 13-page order.

Maratita, the CNMI Senate, and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) sued Fitial, Buckingham (then replaced with Attorney General Joey San Nicolas), the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over the PPA and sought a preliminary injunction to stop it.

Last Feb. 4, 2014, Wiseman issued a decision, ruling that the agreement was facially invalid and the subsequent PPA at issue was void from the beginning.

On Feb. 8, 2013, Fitial, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, moved to dismiss himself, individually, as a party from the case. In the alternative, he moved to substitute the CNMI in his place.

Fitial claimed he is entitled to qualified immunity as to the three counts of plaintiffs' complaint.

In Fitial's alternative request to substitute the CNMI in his place, Lochabay cited Public Law 15-22 and the Government Liability Act as the grounds for substitution.

Included in Fitial's motion to substitute was a certification of the Attorney General that Fitial was acting within the scope of his employment when he took the actions alleged in the complaint.

In plaintiffs' opposition to Fitial's motion to dismiss, attorney Ramon K. Quichocho asserted that "no rational governor could read the constitu-

tional provisions at issue and believe that he was not restrained from committing the CUC and the CNMI to a no-bid, \$190-million diesel power plant contract without the approval of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the CNMI Department of Finance, and CUC, without following procurement laws/regulations."

Quichocho claimed that, "the Government Liability Act specifically exempts a constitutional taxpayers' civil action from the exclusive remedy rule."

In denying Fitial's motion, Wiseman determined that even a cursory examination of the PPA would reveal that a plethora of appropriations of public money were to be made, both directly or indirectly, as part of the agreement.

Wiseman said as the PPA was illegal and thus void from the start, the court finds that the appropriations of money cannot be for a public purpose.

Fitial argued that the PPA consists of a "build-operate-transfer" project, where SDLLC is solely responsible for all construction costs and associated financing, and the sole obligation of the CNMI is to purchase the electricity generated from the power plant constructed pursuant to the contract.

However, Wiseman said, after a close examination of the terms of the PPA, the court recognizes the multitude of direct and indirect costs the CNMI government is subject to under the contract.

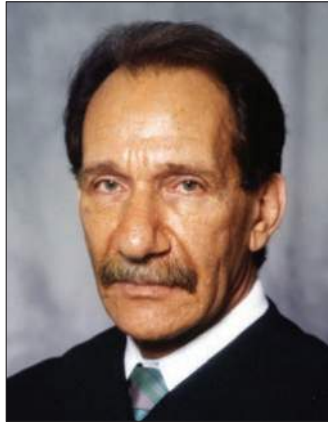
"Thus, these costs constitute a public debt as envisioned by the legislature in crafting the public debt authorization section of Article X," Wiseman said.

Accordingly, he said, as the obligations of the CNMI pursuant to the terms of the PPA are deemed a "public debt" and it is undisputed that the PPA was executed without the authorization of the legislature, "the court finds that Fitial's alleged conduct, when construed in light most favorable to the plaintiffs, constitutes a violation of NMI Const. Art. X, Section 3."

Wiseman said construing the facts alleged in the complaint in a light most favorable to the plaintiffs, the court finds that Fitial's alleged conduct in authorizing the PPA without complying with the requirements constitutes a violation of section 4 of Article X.

Wiseman said the court finds that the constitutional provisions proscribing Fitial's alleged conduct are clearly established such that he should have known his actions violated the CNMI Constitution.

Wiseman said as Buckingham did not issue an AG opinion detailing the reasons that the PPA and underlying



Wiseman



Fitial

agreements were valid and legal as to form and capacity, but rather provided counsel to Fitial on a private basis during the preparation and execution of the contracts, Fitial cannot be said to have relief on his advice in good faith.

Wiseman said if Fitial was uncertain as to whether his emergency declaration provided him with the sole authority to enter into the PPA and appropriate public money without the authorization of the necessary parties, he may

have reasonably relied upon the advice of retained private counsel in addition to the AG's certifications.

However, he said, Fitial did not seek a written opinion from Buckingham or advice from private counsel to ensure his compliance with the laws and constitution of the CNMI.

Wiseman said despite the uncertainty and ambiguity he alleges as to controlling law, Fitial chose instead to rely on the bare certifications of Buckingham without any offi-

cial written opinion detailing the legal issues presented by the PPA and Fitial's purported authority to enter into the contract and the underlying agreements.

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## FITCH

From Page 1

rating agency's belief that following fiscal year 2013, CPA cash flows should continue to be sufficient to cover debt service through its five-year forecast period and takes comfort in the CPA's strong liquidity and fixed rate, flat debt service profile.

Other key rating drivers included the projected volume stability in the cargo base that comes in to the island.

"The seaports remain essential for the import of goods to an island economy; however, there is potential for stagnant operational trends due to CNMI's ex-

posure to macroeconomic factors and its elevated dependence on a limited tourist base. Volume stability is expected given that food and fuel related cargos account for approximately 70 percent of import dependent revenue tonnage," according to the Fitch release. For the agency, these two are concentrated but vital cargo base for the CPA.

Fitch also noted that CPA, instead of implementing increase rates on seaport fees, it had focused instead on effective containment of operating expenses. CPA last increased seaport rates in 2009.

CPA's capital improvement plan is also noted as manageable in scope and is predomi-

nantly grant funded. The remaining dollars are expected to come from internally generated funds with no future debt issuances.

Also cited is the conservative capital structure of the agency where it maintains 100 percent fixed-rate, fully amortizing debt. Fitch rated the ports authority debt structure as stronger.

CPA, according to Fitch's discovery, currently maintains favorable leverage and liquidity metrics offset by modest coverage ratios. In maintaining a balance sheet with cash and reserves available for operating expenses equating to over 2,000 days cash on hand provides CPA with some degree of flexibility

to meet financial commitments in weak performing periods.

Fitch noted that the CNMI ports' revenue tonnage is now nearly 100 percent from imports and concentrated in two main commodities (fuel and food), following the loss of the garment industry. Collectively, fuel and food represent nearly 70 percent of all revenue tonnage, possibly indicating that a shift in the operational profile may be nearing completion and demonstrating the essentiality of the ports to the islands' survival.

"Due to a decrease in imports, total tonnage fell off by 13.1 percent to 355,572 metric tons. This figure is comparable to tonnage in 2011, which was

378,800 metric tons, and Fitch believes this will be near to the new baseline for CNMI," according to the release.

In fiscal year 2013, CPA's unaudited operating revenues were down 2.9 percent as a result of lower seaport fees and concession-based receipts. Operating expenses decreased by 11.6 percent due to a decrease in contractual services and employee benefits. Together, this resulted in an estimated 2013 debt service coverage of 1.33, which was flat compared to last year's 1.32 coverage. Debt service coverage has stayed largely stable in the 1.3 to 1.4 range since fiscal 2009's rate increase.

CPA also maintains fund

balances of over \$13 million related to the bond indenture and has increased daily cash on hand (including reserves available for operating expenses) to 2,264 days. This liquidity provides some degree of financial flexibility. Further, management does not anticipate any future debt issuances at this time.

The authority's capital improvement plan is also seen as modest and primarily grant funded with a 25-percent match required from the CPA. Fitch notes that a more forward-looking capital plan would be helpful in monitoring new projects and ensuring that any necessary maintenance and/or projects are not being deferred.

## CUC

From Page 1

The governor also signed Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) SB 18-

31, SS1, SD1, HD1, establishing the CNMI Scholarship Office as an autonomous agency. The bill is now Public Law 18-40.

"While I approve this measure, the Legislature must be cognizant

that an amendment is eventually needed, whereby the language 'of excepted service position without reduction in salary and benefits' in the final sentence of Section 5(b) should be stricken," the gov-

ernor told the Legislature in his transmittal letter.

Inos said such an amendment is necessary because Scholarship Office employees will no longer be excepted service em-

ployees and must be afforded the salaries and benefits conferred to civil servants, as established in the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

The governor also signed

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) SB 18-4 into Public Law 18-41, requiring all commercial wireless service providers to produce wireless service coverage maps.

## CASINO

From Page 1

If all goes well as planned, the governor could have the amendment bill on his desk before the week's end.

But while the 16-page amendment bill tries to cure many of the CNMI's funding problems involving medical, retirement, and utility services, the Legislature and the administration's handling of the bill still raises questions and concerns from the public, including a lack of public hearing for a bill of this nature.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), author of the casino bill that became law on March 21, prefled yesterday House Bill 18-182 that would amend Public Law 18-38.

"This is a much improved legislation that takes into account the concerns of the public. The proposed amendments are very straightforward and clarify ambiguities. Again, I will respectfully ask my colleagues to allow this bill to be placed on calendar during Wednesday's session," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor, meanwhile, said he signed HB 18-179, HD4 into PL 18-38 "with reservation."

"Although there are some shortcomings in this bill, the assurances that you have provided as to the adoption of agreed upon amendments will address these issues," the governor told the Legislature in his transmittal letter dated March 21 but was actually sent to the Legislature only yesterday afternoon.

Inos said with the agreed-upon amendments, the revised bill will provide a "long-term solution to many community problems."

"These investments will provide the economic foundation for both the immediate and long-term expansion of the Commonwealth as a major tourist destination in Micronesia," Inos said, adding that these changes will create thousands of jobs, increased wages, job training, demand for private property, and creation of business opportunities.

Demapan's amendment bill takes into account the changes proposed by House and Senate members, the governor, the business community and other members of the public.

Ed Propst, a concerned citizen, said yesterday there are still lingering questions on the manner in which the casino bill and the amendment bill are being rushed. Propst urges community members to comment on the bill in this afternoon's House session and ask questions, since the bill is not likely to be referred to committee or undergo public hearing.

"Another question is, who is this casino investor the CNMI leaders met with in Hong Kong? Whatever happened to the promise of transparency in government?" Propst said in a phone interview.

In this afternoon's House session, Demapan will formally introduce the amendment bill. He will then ask his colleagues to have the bill placed on the calendar for action.

### Tinian mayor's requests

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, meanwhile, asked the House and Senate yesterday to consider an amendment that would "ensure that the law is completely severed from casino or gaming operations" on Tinian and Rota "in any way, shape or form."

"With that done, both Houses can openly and freely discuss the issue of casino gaming on Saipan without worrying about interference from those members of the Legislature from either Tinian or Rota who support casino gaming on Saipan,"

the Tinian mayor told House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

The House speaker will have his leadership meeting this morning, while the Senate president convened a leadership meeting yesterday afternoon.

Senate Fiscal Affairs committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) scheduled public hearings on the casino amendment bill from but there is no telling whether the measure would even be referred to her committee once HB 18-182 reaches the Senate.

In a separate letter to the governor also yesterday, the Tinian mayor again reminded Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider to push forward with developing the Tinian West Field International Airport.

"For the sake of the people of Tinian who signed the Covenant with the hope of equal treatment, and for the people of Saipan who will continue to receive the bulk of the revenues created by casino gaming on Tinian, I ask you to step forward and make direct flights to Tinian a reality before the November election," the mayor told the governor.

### Tax benefits

HB 18-182 clarifies and restores the tax rebate offset structure for CNMI taxpayers, which was among the major concerns raised by lawmakers themselves, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other community members.

The bill also cuts the proposed tax benefits to be given to the exclusive casino license holder.

The original bill that became PL 18-38 gives the exclusive casino licensee a rebate offset amount of 100 percent of the gross gaming revenue.

In the amendment bill, the exclusive casino licensee's rebate offset for "non-gaming revenue" is similar to that provided to other taxpayers who

are not free trade zone licensees. For example, if the rebate base is over \$20,000 but not over \$100,000, the rebate amount is \$18,000 plus 70 percent of the rebate base.

Moreover, for the casino gaming revenue, the rebate offset amount is 100 percent of the income tax imposed on net gaming revenue "taxable income up to \$15 million."

For casino net gaming revenue taxable income in excess of \$15 million, the rebate offset is the same as those for other taxpayers.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan earlier questioned the original bill's 100 percent tax rebate of the exclusive casino licensee's gross gaming revenue, "when the overall true benefit" is already "exclusivity."

### Timelines, payments

As agreed upon, the exclusive casino license term is reduced from 80 years to 40 years to comply with the NMI Constitution's land provisions.

The amendment bill provides for the co-existence and establishment of electronic gaming.

Again, with the exemption of electronic gaming, no new additional poker, pachinko and similar amusement machine license will be issued or allowed to operate outside casinos a year after the casino law's signing.

The amendment bill gives interested investors more time to pay a nonrefundable \$1 million application fee—from 15 days to 30 days of the bill's signing.

The application must be submitted to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission, and the fee must be deposited with the Commonwealth Treasury.

Payment or deposit in an independent escrow account of \$30 million—representing the first and now the "fifth" instead of the "third" annual license fee of \$15 million each—is to be made within 45

days from the bill's signing instead of 15 days.

Another proposed change is the \$15 million annual license fee which can now be adjusted—upward—every five years based on the cumulative change in the consumer price index that the Department of Commerce develops for Saipan for the previous five years.

The \$15 million annual license fee, however, cannot be reduced, under the amendment bill.

### Business plan, penalties

The investor will also have up to 45 days after the amendment bill is signed into law to submit an acceptable business plan to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission.

Under HB 18-182, the business plan must provide a timeline and cost breakdown that specifically shows how and when the applicant will comply with the requirements of the minimum initial investment.

The investor's required minimum investment is still \$2 billion.

However, the amendment bill said this is only an initial minimum investment, and should include a casino and a resort with a minimum of 2,000 guest rooms. These should be built from the ground up.

HB 18-182 increases the penalties for violation of the bill's provisions to a felony classification and fines up to \$100,000.

The amendment bill also lowers the age limit from 21 to 18 for individuals allowed to the casino gaming areas.

### Where will funds be used?

The amendment bill provides for an annual \$2 million payment each for Rota and Tinian from the license fees. But that amount will be used only to restore the 25 percent cut in pension and benefits for these senatorial districts' retirees.

In the \$30 million in license fees that will be received in the first year, \$26 million will be paid upfront to Saipan.

Of this amount, \$25 million will be to restore Saipan retirees' 25 percent pension cut and \$1 million to be allocated to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for their appropriation.

A PL 17-82 Interest Account shall also be established, to be used to pay the interest to active members who terminated their membership in the Defined Benefit plan under Public Law 17-82 as amended by PL 18-2. The interest is to be paid proportionately on a semi-annual basis until all members have been paid.

The law states that \$11 million of the annual license fees received in the years after the first year will go to Saipan for the 25 percent pension cut restoration (\$10 million), and \$1 million for SNILD's appropriation.

This is a general election year in the CNMI.

The \$1 million nonrefundable application fee will be reserved for the commission's operation, personnel, and all other expenses for the first year.

### Other uses

The amendment bill also spells out the disposition of gross revenue tax from the Saipan casino industry.

After interest has been fully paid to all members who terminated their DB membership, the Finance secretary has to establish a LEAC Rate Subsidy Account, and money will be used primarily to subsidize the LEAC rate for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers. This will help reduce CUC customers' utility rates.

Gross revenue taxes will also be used to provide subsidy for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help address costs associated with medically indigent patients.

They will also be used to subsidize the CNMI Medical Referral Program.

Lastly, gross revenue taxes will also be used to pay land compensation judgments and other land taking.



## SHEFA accrues \$22K in unpaid CUC bills

The Saipan Higher Financial Assistance has accrued a substantial amount of unpaid bills for utilities as a result of a miscommunication with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

To date, the program owes CUC over \$22,000 in unpaid obligations for its water and electricity usage dating back to 2004, the year when SHEFA was established. The amount is inclusive of the late charges assessed in the past eight years.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa confirmed that the \$22,000 debt covers unpaid bills from 2004 through 2011. She revealed that based on CUC records no payment was ever been made to the agency.

SHEFA is a program under the auspices of the Saipan Mayor's Office. Rasa revealed that previous program administrations were made to believe that its utilities will be shouldered by the mayor's office only to find out

later that SHEFA has a separate account of its own.

She said it was only in 2011 when then administrator Henry Hofschneider found the deficiency and started, little by little, to pay the unpaid bills. SHEFA has an office located at the government's MIHA Housing in Garapan.

According to the new administrator, SHEFA is now addressing the unpaid obligations with the help of the Department of Finance. She disclosed that on top of the monthly bills it pays CUC, a minimal amount between \$100 and \$200 is being added for the "past account."

"We sent up a memo to Finance which allocates certain amounts (for the past account) just to show that we're paying," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the additional payment is also sourced from SHEFA's operating budget of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2014.

SHEFA administers three scholarship programs: grant in aid, field of study, and incentive program which is allocated \$3 million each year. For the program's operation and all others, additional \$100,000 was earmarked to pay for the wages of its two staffers and other needs.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that SHEFA's utility expenses average between \$400 and \$500 each month. But in the last few months, the bill had jumped to \$1,500 monthly due to busted water lines. Rasa said that these leaks have recently been addressed.

### Comments to bills

Also last week, Rasa disclosed that the SHEFA had submitted its comments to two specific bills filed in the House of Representatives.

SHEFA, through its board chair Josephine Sablan, expressed support to House Bill

18-178 which proposes to establish the Related Service Providers Scholarship.

"We do support this bill. However, I would like to recommend that if there are no vacancies at the Public School System when they return, then they should be able to work under the following places such as health care corporation, private clinics, or open their own private practice here in the CNMI," stated Sablan's correspondence

## 1 juror in Kim suit reportedly gets into car accident

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With one juror failing to attend, the eight jurors did not deliberate yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of businesswoman Jung Ja Kim's racketeering lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, his wife Frances, his law firm, and their Karissa LLC company.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that one juror got into a car ac-

cident and failed to show up for the jury's supposed fourth day of deliberations yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona met with the parties' counsels at 8am to see if they could continue the deliberations with or without one juror.

The eight jurors were not allowed to deliberate and were later excused for the day when

ation should be given to give the waived salaries to NMTI (Northern Marianas Trades Institute) or other trades/vocational schools which promote various trades that we need. If there really is a commitment to increase the local workforce, then there should be some emphasis on skills that can be attained through a trade school setting because not everyone is meant to pursue a college degree," added the SHEFA board chair. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

it was clear that one juror could not make it to the court.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Kim, said he has no details about the accident.

The incident involving one juror is among of a few unexpected events that caused the trial to drag on. Recently, Frances fainted and was taken by an ambulance to the hospital shortly before the continuation of her cross-examination. The trial began last Feb. 3.

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**Registration is free and space still available.**



**Thank You ~ Si Yu'os Ma'ase' ~ Olomwaay**

On behalf of the Committee-to-Elect Inos-Torres  
and the

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**INOS**  
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Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Inos-Torres ~ Judith Pangelinan, Treasurer



## Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

### Gaming Cage Worker (12)

**Position Summary:** Conduct financial transactions for patrons and guests. Follow all cash desk regulations. Participate in the soft count as required. Ensure that the cash desk float balances during and at the end of shift; reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming cage worker or work experience at a gaming establishment cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Surveillance Operator (12)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Security Officer (12)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Bartender (3)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock are maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

### Cleaner (2)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for cleaning of the gaming floor, lounge and all other areas of the club premises. Maintain the club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a cleaner preferably in a gaming establishment or hotel. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication skills an advantage.

### Driver (2)

**Position Summary:** Responsible for driving company, assigned or courtesy vehicles to transport guests and customers in a safe, efficient and polite manner; arrange to pick up customers or guests on a regular schedule. Liaise with the guest services/marketing supervisor and hotel regarding accommodation and transport of guests and customer.

**Position Requirement:** High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working as a driver. Must have a commercial driver's license or equivalent with the ability to drive a commercial bus and courtesy van or car. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing with excellent communication skills an advantage.

**Compensation:** All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

**Job Location:** Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

**Application:** Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is Monday, March 31, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

# SSHS, Rota HS top PSS drill competition



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 25-member Saipan Southern High School JROTC Team poses with its Army instructors after the PSS JROTC Annual Drill Competition awarding rites last Saturday at Marianas High School campus.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Cadres and cadets of the Saipan Southern High and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School once again ruled the PSS JROTC Annual Drill Competition held last Saturday at the Marianas High School.

With their victories, SSHS and the Rota high school will represent the CNMI in the Golden Bear National Drill Meet set next month at Joint Base Alamos in California.

The Manta Ray's JROTC team was hailed the overall winner in the armed division and adjudged official delegate to compete in the armed drill category of the national event.

The 25-member SSHS troop was headed by battalion commander Donna Pascual, who said she was overwhelmed by the honor.

This year, SSHS took home seven major awards in the statewide competition, including the gold awards in armed drill, armed color guard, armed regulation, unarmed drill/saver color, and exhibition. The troop was also named second place for fancy unarmed category,

and third best team for unarmed regulation category.

Being the statewide overall champion for the armed division, SSHS will once again compete in the national event—the fourth consecutive year for the group since 2011.

Like the battalion commander, SSHS Senior Army Instructor CSM (retired) Richard Basa said the group's latest achievement is testament to the dedication and commitment of students. It was disclosed that the team had been rehearsing for the competition since October last year.

For the national unarmed drill category, the CNMI will be sending cadets from Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School JROTC to compete in the national event after it won the overall award for the unarmed division.

They will be traveling to California on April 22, together with the SSHS team. The national competition is set on April 26. The CNMI team will be against 60 school districts in the U.S. mainland, including representatives from Nevada, San Diego, Las Vegas, Arizona, among others.

According to CNMI JROTC

Director of Army Instruction, LTC (retired) Bob Gay, the recent drill competition showcased the hard work and technical skills of all five JROTC high school drill teams in the Commonwealth.

Gay claimed that the level of competition this year was the best he has seen the past seven years.

In the same ceremony on Saturday, the CNMI-PSS—led by State Board of Education member Tanya King—recognized and presented the "Lifetime Service Award" to Sgt. Major (retired) Herman Atalig for his 17 years of service to the JROTC program. Atalig is the former Rota JROTC program senior instructor.

Saturday's competition also saw the participation of LTC Jay Blakely, professor of Military Science at the University of Guam SROTC Program. Blakely and his group served as evaluators for the event.

In his remarks, Gay also specifically recognized CPT Ernest Torres and ISG Gene Guzman for hosting the drill meet at the MHS Campus and the effective coordination of the air support for the Rota and Tinian cadets.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School JROTC team pose after winning the overall title in the PSS JROTC Annual Drill Competition unarmed division.



## IN DIVE SHOP BURGLARY CASE

## Judge Camacho says OAG failed to submit witness list on time

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Just as the jury trial of Kyle Cabael, a Hawaiian man facing charges over a dive shop burglary, started in Superior Court yesterday, a problem suddenly arose: The prosecution failed to submit a witness list before the deadline.

This prompted Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to excuse the jurors early and ordered them to come back in court today, Wednesday.

Camacho asked defense counsel Colin Thompson and assistant attorney general Jacinta Kaipat to submit briefs as to what options the court has—whether to dismiss the case, proceed with the trial, or continue the trial to another date.

Camacho completed the jury selection yesterday morning. Thompson and Kaipat then conducted their closing arguments in the afternoon.

After the closing arguments, Kaipat informed the court of the government's intent to call its first witness—Sharlene Blas. Thomp-

son objected as the Office of the Attorney General did not submit a witness list by the deadline.

OAG filed witness list only after the deadline. But Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, who handled the pre-trial matter in the case, states that those witnesses will not be allowed to testify.



Camacho

Kaipat told the court that she didn't find a filed copy of the witness list by the deadline.

After reviewing the file in the case, Camacho cited that on Aug. 13, 2013, Presiding Judge Naraja issued a pre-trial order that directed the parties to submit a witness list on or before Feb. 5, 2014, or a day before the pre-trial conference.

Camacho said the government failed to file a witness list on the deadline.

Kaipat refused to comment to the media after the hearing. She is not the prosecutor that was

## Boat captain accused of punching dive shop employee gets three-day jail term

A boat captain accused of punching a diving shop employee in front of stunned customers at a beach side in western Garapan, entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to three days in prison.

Quentin Michael Ngarairois, 47, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted the guilty plea and sentenced Ngarairois to six months in prison, all suspended except three days.

Wiseman gave the defendant credit for the three days he already served in jail.

It means that Ngarairois will no longer serve more jail time.

The defendant will be placed on supervised probation for six months. He was required to pay a \$500 fine, plus \$25 court

costs, and \$60 probation fee.

Ngarairois was ordered to perform 200 hours of community work service and complete anger management counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

As part of the plea agreement, assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas moved to dismiss the remaining charge of assault and battery. The judge granted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on April 30, 2013, Ngarairois walked up to Michael Daikichy and punched him in the face in front of staff and customers of the Global Oceans Divers. The defendant's actions disturbed the peace of Daikichy as well as all others present.

Police said the assault happened when Ngarairois and the victim were arguing over customers. (Ferdie de la Torre)

originally assigned to the case.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda is assisting Kaipat in the case.

The OAG charged Cabael and Franco B. Singeru with burglary, theft, conspiracy, and criminal mischief. Singeru pleaded guilty.

The burglary happened at Past Time Dive Shop in Susupe on Oct. 7, 2012. Reported stolen were 21 scuba tanks, diving suits, and fins.

Cabael and Singeru were arrested in January 2013 after police's investigation identified them as behind the burglary at Past Time Dive Shop.

Police recovered 17 of the 21 scuba tanks, one diving suit, and a pair of fins from the Sky Garage Sale in San Jose.



In these trying times, we've created a very affordable service with everything you need to honor your loved one with simple yet dignified service. We don't solicit. We are only providing our services and it's up to the family's choice.

# THE CHOICE

## \$2,950.00

US made casket – Star Series line  
Hearse, flowers, basic equipment, supplies, memorial cross, prayer cards and grave site services.

For more information, please call 235-8572 or 287-5810  
OTHER SERVICES AND UPGRADES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.



## Northern Marianas College

Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Program

## Workforce Development Training

For U.S. Citizens and U.S. Eligible Workers

## Training Schedule

March 31 – May 30, 2014

Different sessions

are being offered at:

9:00 am - 11:00 am

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

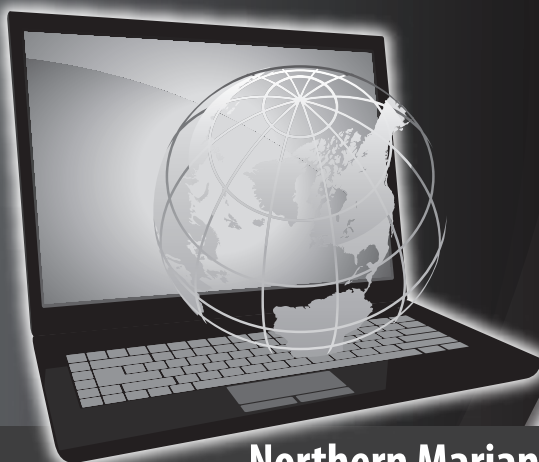
Venue: Northern Marianas College, Saipan Campus

\*\*Tinian & Rota sessions will be held separately\*\*

*Note: Classes must meet minimum enrollment in order to run. If the class fails to meet such enrollment, NMC reserves the right to reschedule, combine, or cancel such courses.*

Seating is limited so register today!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.MARIANAS.EDU](http://WWW.MARIANAS.EDU)



Trainings are made possible through CNMI Appropriations to NMC for US Apprenticeship Program collected from Federal Funds for contract worker (CW) fees.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, March 27, 2014

During these sessions you will receive training in:

## Computer Literacy Training

- Introduction to Computers **6 hours**
- Keyboarding **10 hours**
- Fundamentals of the Internet & Email Usage **6 hours**
- Introduction to Word Processing Applications **15 hours**
- Introduction to Spreadsheet Applications **20 hours**
- Creating Effective Digital Presentations **10 hours**

## Work Skills Training:

- Workplace Culture and Ethics **12 hours**
- Workforce Ready:
  - Personal & Leadership Skills **10 hours**
  - Communication in the Workplace **10 hours**
  - Providing Excellent Customer Service **30 hours**
  - Getting the Job: Job Search, Resume Writing, Job Interviewing Techniques **10 hours**
  - Time and Stress Management **10 hours**

For more information or to register for the trainings, visit the Community Development Institute (CDI) at NMC in Bldg. P. You may also contact Ms. Eileen Babauta at (670) 237-6764/6808/6810 or email her at [eileen.babauta@marianas.edu](mailto:eileen.babauta@marianas.edu). CDI also offers specialized, as well as advanced courses.

Northern Marianas College P.O. Box 501250 • Tel. 670.237.6764/6808/6810

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## MHS PTA meeting today

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are invited to attend the MHS PTA meeting today, March 26, 2014, at 6:30pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. We will get an update on MHS administration, programs, and future events with reports from Student Council. (PR)

## Navy, Air Force training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following times:

- March 27-28, from 7am to 4pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. (PR)

## Governor's Office change phone numbers

Due to a system upgrade, there has been a change in telephone numbers for the Offices of the Governor & Lt. Governor as well as most offices located in the Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, Capital Hill, Saipan. As a result, telephone numbers for these offices with a 664 prefix may no longer be functional.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider ask for the public's cooperation and understanding during this transition period and extend their sincerest apology for any inconvenience caused by the telephone number change.

To contact any of the Governor/ Lt. Governor's Offices by telephone, call the Governor's Office operator at (670) 237-2200. (PR)

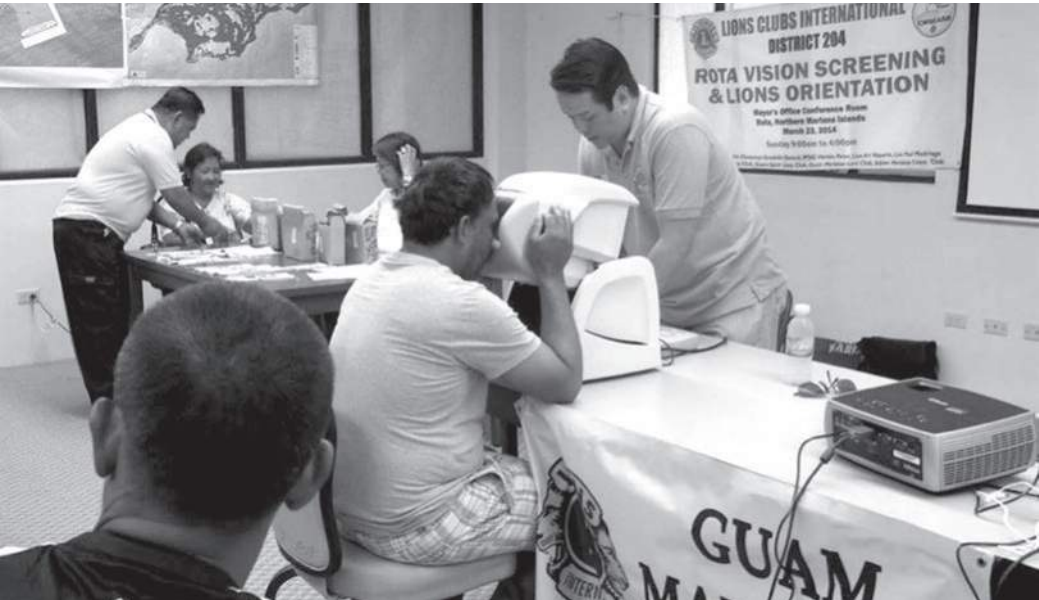


# 140 attend Lions Club’s free vision screening on Rota



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota residents, who availed of last Sunday’s free vision screening, pose with members of the Lion Clubs at the Rota Mayor’s Office conference room.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lion Club member Vic Gaza assists a Rota resident during Sunday’s vision screening outreach at the Rota Mayor’s Office conference room.

About 140 availed of free eye checkups as well as free reading glasses during a vision screening outreach conducted by Lions Clubs International District 204 on Rota last Sunday, March 23.

Saipan Marianas Lions Club’s Paul Madriaga made a presentation on the different services the Lions Club provides to the community at the vision screening’s venue at the Rota Mayor’s Office conference room.

Madriaga and company were joined in the outreach by members of the Guam Lions Club, namely Art Navarro and Vic Gaza, who helped set up equipment for Sunday’s event. Ali Badilles, meanwhile, assisted volunteers during the eye screening.

Herbie Perez, Lions Club immediate past district governor, also gave a short orientation to attendees and those interested to join the local civic organization.

Estrella Mendiola, wife of the Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, served lunch to the Lions Club members and volunteers.

After the vision screening, Madriaga said leftover reading glasses and eye health literature were turned over to Julian Calvo.

Madriaga also stayed on Rota until Monday afternoon to collect the application forms from those interested in joining the Lions Club.

“We came up with 35 names and we have already 21 filled application forms, enough to charter the Rota Marianas Lions Club. Right now, we are waiting for others to pay the \$30 charter fee,” he said.

Madriaga also thanked everyone who made last Sunday’s vision screening a success.

“In behalf of the District 204, our sincere appreciation to the Rota people especially to Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Tommy Mendiola, Julian Calvo, Alejandro Badilles, Estrella Mendiola, Jessica Calvo, Jimmy Apatang, Romy Yalung, and Tina Atalig.”

The Rota Marianas Lions Club will complete the Marianas family of Lions Clubs in the district, which includes Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Those interested in joining the Lions Club on Rota, contact Julian Calvo at 532-3414, Ali Badilles at 532-2539, Estrella Mendiola 532-0363, or Paul Madriaga at 287-4501. (*Jayson Camacho*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

March 26, 2006

### Minority opposes CUC transfer

The House minority bloc is opposed to the administration’s plan to transfer the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to the Department of Public Works, saying that the former’s functions are far too great to be reduced into a mere division. “I’m not in favor of CUC being put under DPW. CUC by itself is a stand-alone agency. It is a corporation. It’s a big function. Now if they want it under the Executive Branch, let them do it but let it stand alone, like the Department of Public Lands,” said House minority leader Arnold I. Palacios in an interview. The Fitial administration signed a bill into law last month dissolving the Marianas Public Lands Authority and creating Public Lands Department in its stead, amid various allegations of improprieties leveled against MPLA officials.

### Swimmer crowned Miss Marianas Teen

Sixteen-year old Saipan swim team member Myana T. Welch was crowned as this year’s Miss Marianas Teen during a night of glamour, sophistication and fun at the Saipan World Resort Amphitheater Friday night. Welch bested 17 other equally beautiful candidates when she impressed the 500-plus audience with her answer to the question-and-answer portion of the pageant. Welch, clad in elegant white evening gown, was asked the question: If she were to give a gift to the Emperor and Empress of Japan, what would it be and why? Welch replied that she would give the royal guests a replica of the latte stones because the stones are the symbol of the foundation of the CNMI community, “the beginnings where we came from.”

March 26, 2007

### Cohen: Federalization not a certainty

U.S. deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs David Cohen yesterday stated that immigration federalization in the CNMI is not a certainty. “It is very important that everyone knows the truth. And the truth is, we don’t know yet. Will [federalization] fall down? I don’t know. Nobody knows,” Cohen told members of the Filipino community. Hundreds of Filipino workers filled the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to attend Cohen’s consultation meeting with the Filipino community yesterday afternoon. Many workers who failed to get inside the jam-packed center watched the dialogue on the side outside the building.

### WSR counselor makes Who’s Who cut

William S. Reyes Elementary School counselor Rebecca Flores made her school proud once again as she recently made it to the crème de la crème list of teachers in the U.S. Flores made the list in this year’s 10th Edition of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, 2005-2006. “I believe you will find this honor exceptionally gratifying since it comes from a successful former student who recommended you because you made a difference in his or her life,” said Jeffrey Fix, vice president of Student Programs.


March 26, 2008

### Fitial agrees with US lawmakers on Labor report


The Fitial administration said yesterday that it agrees with the comments of two U.S. lawmakers that described as “poorly researched” and “fundamentally flawed” the U.S. Department of Labor study on the impact of the increased minimum wage on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. “Although we believe the U.S. Labor report was a good starting point, the governor agrees with Sen. [Edward] Kennedy and Rep. [George] Miller that federal minimum wage policy in American Samoa and the CNMI should be based on solid, objective, and impartial studies with meaningful and accurate data,” said press secretary Charles P. Reyes in an e-mail to the Saipan Tribune.

### Major revamp at DPS

Department of Public Safety acting Commissioner Claudio K. Norita announced yesterday a major reorganization at the department. Norita disclosed that the Criminal Investigation Bureau would be upgraded to a division level, while two sections—the Fiscal Affairs Section and the Legislative Liaison Section—would be created. The commissioner appointed veteran crime-buster Maj. Edward H. Manalili to the revived Criminal Investigation Division and tapped assistant Fire chief Francis Taimanao to be the officer-in-charge of the Fiscal Affairs Section.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**DPW/SWM14-RFP-001**

**MARPI LANDFILL OPERATIONS**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the Marpi Landfill Operations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **March 26, 2014** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on **April 14, 2014**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, **April 21, 2014**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **“DPW/SWM14-RFP-001.”** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **April 30, 2014**.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **April 30, 2014**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 30, 2014** and must be received no later **May 9, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1)	Background and Qualification	30%
2)	Operational and Contingency Plans	30%
3)	Equipment	30%
4)	Price	10%

Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
Director of Procurement & Supply



# NIMO refutes DoD assertion that Pagan in uninhabited

The Northern Islands Mayor’s Office said the Department of Defense’s proposed actions on Pagan will have significant and irreparable harm on the people, the land, the water, the air, and the biologically diverse critical habitats on the indigenous island of Pagan and the surrounding environs.

NIMO added that DoD’s description of Pagan being “uninhabited” is disingenuous.

“The earliest carbon dated settlement was in Eastern Pagan Coastline around 1300 A.D. Pagan is never ‘uninhabited,’ contrary to the misinformation propagated by DoD representatives: Pagan is waiting for its people to return. The proposed action by the military would completely displace, dislocate, and disenfranchise the indigenous people of Pagan from their homes, in violation of the laws enacted by the CNMI government, among other violations, to formally re-establish their return. Tinian was eliminated by DoD entirely based on the undisputed fact that Tinian is inhabited. Pagan should be eliminated for the same reason.”

NIMO said that because Gov. Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Lands, is most likely handling discussions, dialogues, or negotiations over Pagan, the Legislature, nonetheless, has the ability to assert itself, which it did in House Joint Resolution 18-14 this and House Resolution 18-39, which also passed in 2014, including House Bill 18-109.

An inventory of earlier homestead laws since 1979 include Public Law (PL) 1-42; in 1981, PL 2-13; in 1993, PL 8-9; in 1999, PL 11-96; in 2005, PL 14-66; in 2009, PL 16-50; and in 2010 is PL 17-26. Just recently, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 18-108, to compel DPL to issue homesteads to residents of the Northern Islands, removing any and all administrative roadblocks to issuance of homesteads to residents of the Northern Islands.

More than two years ago,

DPL performed land surveys on Pagan, which it identified as Lot No. 001 S 03. The parcel located in Regusa, Pagan contains a total area of 731,464 square meters of land suitable for village and agricultural homesteads. Another 35 parcels of homestead lots were surveyed at the direction of the public land office back in 1980 by a private survey firm, which is the site of the present homestead in Shulmuson village.

A town hall meeting scheduled for tomorrow, March 26, 6pm at the Carolinian Utt will touch on the status of homesteads and ideas on the allotment of lot size for village and agricultural homesteads. At 1,000 square meters per homestead lot, a little over 700 homestead parcels could immediately be issued at Regusa in Pagan, compared to 35 parcels at the present village of Shumulson. Altogether, nearly 800 homestead parcels could be issued in Pagan to its residents this year.

While the governor has indicated his opposition to live fire training activities, NIMO said the House of Representatives has actually introduced and passed a House Joint Resolution requesting Inos to oppose the militarization of Pagan in House Joint Resolution 18-14.

“On land ownership, put simply, DoD will not want to compel the acquisition of Pagan through eminent domain. It is politically risky and takes enormous time to push

the matter through Congress. Even a single landowner who refuses to lease his/her interest, DOD will have to go through several procedural steps to take the land.”

NIMO added that local government could not lawfully continue to withhold issuance of beneficially vested rights to homesteads in the Third Senatorial District of the Northern Islands, unlike its routine practice of issuing homestead lots in the First Senatorial District of Rota, the Second Senatorial District of Tinian, and the Third Senatorial District of Saipan, but not the Northern Islands. This discriminatory practice is downright unlawful.

Fortunately, NIMO asserted that people do not need to live on Pagan in order to have their ownership recognized.

“The people of Pagan and their descendants could and should be recognized as the beneficiaries of land. In the recognition document, among the stipulations, shall include a condition that the land could not be sold, leased or otherwise transferred without the approval of the indigenous beneficiaries of the ancestral land.” *(PR)*

DEQ, DCRM closed on Friday

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be closed on Friday, March 28, due to a full-day employee professional development training.

Normal operations will resume on Monday, March 31. If you have an emergency or require immediate assistance, call 664-8500 for DEQ and 664-8300 for DCRM.

DEQ and DCRM apologize for any inconvenience and are thanking the public for their understanding. *(PR)*

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-005

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Junior Engineer

**Duties:** Work under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Designs electric and distribution and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of electric and distribution projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate electric and distribution system needs and perform engineering analysis. Perform research for design, efficiency improvement, and operations support. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION(S):** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$30,000.00 per annum - \$40,000.00 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** One (1).

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering degree. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD and GIS is preferred but not required. **Knowledge of:** Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and transmission and distribution concepts. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. **Skill in:** organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation;; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate; interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-004

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Until Filled

Senior Engineer

*(REVISED 3/18/14)*

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$65,000.00 per annum - \$92,030.00 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of progressively responsible engineering related experience in transmission and distribution. PE license from a U.S. jurisdiction in Electrical Engineering required. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

**RELOCATION EXPENSES:** If hired from outside the CNMI, not to exceed \$10,000.00 for relocation to Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS:** To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter and a list of references by one the following means:

- United States Postal Service\*: Human Resource Office Commonwealth Utilities Corporation P. O. Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
- \*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax “or” email “or” drop off your package.
- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Drop Off: Drop off your package to the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

**POLICIES:** The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate any discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-006

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$12,263.00 per annum - \$20,639.33 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** Six (6)

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D. or A.B.E. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to climb 50 ft. power pole. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-004

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Until Filled

Senior Engineer

*(REVISED 3/18/14)*

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**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$65,000.00 per annum - \$92,030.00 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of progressively responsible engineering related experience in transmission and distribution. PE license from a U.S. jurisdiction in Electrical Engineering required. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-006

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$12,263.00 per annum - \$20,639.33 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** Six (6)

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D. or A.B.E. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to climb 50 ft. power pole. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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JVA No. 14-006

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-004

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Until Filled

Senior Engineer

*(REVISED 3/18/14)*

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$65,000.00 per annum - \$92,030.00 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of progressively responsible engineering related experience in transmission and distribution. PE license from a U.S. jurisdiction in Electrical Engineering required. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-006

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$12,263.00 per annum - \$20,639.33 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** Six (6)

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D. or A.B.E. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to climb 50 ft. power pole. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Trades Assistant

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Trades Assistant

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Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

**LOCATION:** Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$12,263.00 per annum - \$20,639.33 per annum.

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

**POSITION(S):** Six (6)

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma, or G.E.D. or A.B.E. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to climb 50 ft. power pole. Must have a CNMI driver’s license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14-006

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014  
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

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JOE

JOE

JVA No. 14



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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### EDITORIAL

## How Europe can stop Putin's advance in Ukraine

For decades the United States has supplied much of the military muscle in NATO. The strength of that force enhanced the security of Europe even as European nations slacked off military spending. Result: The U.S. far outspends all its NATO allies combined on defense.

Into this tidy European alliance tromps Russian President Vladimir Putin. With astonishing swiftness he has grabbed Russian-centric Crimea from the Western-leaning government of Ukraine. He won't let go.

Putin's aggressive move has rightly unsettled Russia's NATO neighbors in Europe. They—and their allies in Washington—wonder, what's next? Everyone is scrambling to prevent Putin from moving forces into Ukraine's eastern territory.

The most powerful leverage against Putin isn't in Washington, even though President Barack Obama announced Thursday a new set of economic sanctions targeting Russian tycoons.

This is Europe's moment to punch back or ... duck.

Germany is a major trading partner. Russia does much business in Great Britain, France, and across Eastern Europe.

These NATO allies, acting with resolve and Washington's help, could inflict serious economic pain by focusing sanctions on Russia's vital energy industry. Revenues from energy have propped up the Putin government and Russia's struggling economy. Other trade restrictions could dry up capital markets and make it harder for Russia to obtain the equipment and expertise it needs for the exploration and development of its untapped energy reserves. Travel restrictions should make it hard for Russia's government and oligarchs to do business abroad.

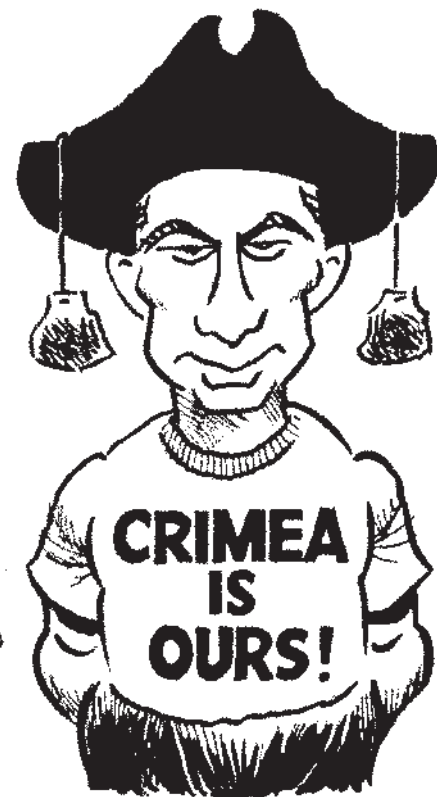
The Europeans, however, are—unsurprisingly—divided. Many don't want to lose Russian business. They don't want to invite Russian retaliation since many European countries depend on Russian oil and natural gas. They don't want to rock the boat too hard.

In Thursday's Tribune, reporter Paul Richter mapped out the divisions: Poland, the Baltic states, Sweden and the Netherlands back strong action. Britain, France and Germany are leaning that way. Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Bulgaria may resist tougher measures for fear of the pain that could cause at home.

You can be sure that Putin, a master strategist, is counting on European disarray.

This is Europe's moment to carry its weight in the NATO alliance and inflict painful sanctions on Russia, even if the repercussions hurt at home. The Europeans can no longer shield their eyes, look to the U.S. and hope someone does something.

See EUROPE on Next Page

MARGULIES  
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"Putin is starting a Russian version of the Tea Party, vowing to 'take back our country'."

## Saipan is now casino country!

So-called leadership made many failed promises. But one thing it didn't fail us: it wanted casino so it boastfully approved it in total silence. It demonstrated that government is about them not "we the people." It boasts finding the salvation to the fiscal mess at home. Appalling!

Nevertheless, if it is to receive some \$30 million from the casino license fee would this be sufficient to cover pension pay cut of 25 percent and other Fund expenses? It involves about \$50 million in cumulative expenses that show that the expected casino revenues are way short right off the bat.

Furthermore, the NMI government owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. some \$23 million in utilities in addition to some \$13 million in DB withdrawals plus other obligations. This debt is about \$36 million plus \$50 million for Fund expenses for a total of \$86 million. This is the net result of a casino legislation rushed through both legislative chambers and kept secret when it was signed into law.

This thorny issue has ripped us apart and how timely the unconstitutional reduction in pension pay so well timed to instill hardship against retirees. It grants the Inos administration and the Legislature the prime opportunity to approve an issue twice shot down by "we the people." It's the epitome of an historic political arrogance never before seen in our developmental history. But then the lack of depth and perception among policymakers lands this community in trash land.

The issue must be revived this November when we pull out the names of all pro-casino lawmakers from the ballot box. It's time to vote for people with academic and professional competency not retired flunkies from the various agencies and departments who can't even read substantive materials. Humiliating! It's all up to us to make final replacements of half-cocked lawmakers who just have no clue what policymaking entails.

### 'Beyond the sea'

The other day I was listening to some old songs (known as standards) of yesteryears. There was the tune "Beyond the Sea." Though a love song, it was the suggestive thought of expanding our horizon beyond the stuffy territorial sea or provincialism that came prominently to mind. My initial reaction was, "I wish!" before it quickly faded elsewhere.

As we boasts of our shiny over Billion Dollar Debt Wagon (BDDW), don't we have people at the helm with vision or folks who could see beyond the years? Or did they turn to the convenience of mediocrity planning by rather than planning for what lies ahead? It's appalling and troubling the obvious lack of vision and conviction to do the right thing by doing it right. We thought we did but our sights are fixed right at the edge of our noses.

Perhaps the deep and thick fiscal mess or impotence is part and

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



whole of the territory we often mouth off as self-government. Bankruptcy? Is piling heaps of debt while honing deficit spending the responsible thing to do? Have measures been taken to cut unbridled spending? Or has it been given the usual "que sera, sera" or "whatever will be, will be." Must domesticate spending on unbridled spending, right? Are we up to the fiduciary duty on this score?

Had we been truthful to our commitment to self-government, we would have downsized the useless bicameral 29-member Legislature to unicameral system comprised of six legislators. This size would have attracted the academically and professionally competent to work on NMI-wide policies that fosters stability and encourages lasting investments. The current setup is a helter-skelter system designed without conviction and purpose. Thus the persistent waste of hard-earned taxpayers' money of more than \$4.1 million annually. Most have lost their "true north" in leadership.

When faced with a serious fiscal crisis, a government chooses one of three options to stay afloat: Cut the size of employees in government; raise taxes; or borrow money somewhere as a temporary cushion. The NMI isn't doing any of the three for it has comfortably found its savior in the hastily approved casino legislation. The promise of more money looks far dimmer than projected for a simple reason: the measure lacked due diligence. These misgivings would only saddle more debts on the backs of our children up ahead. We would have denied them their economic freedom.

Alone in the ecstasy of my thoughts, I could send white doves to the shore to invite others to explore the freedom and power of ideas in the horizon. Maybe and just maybe, they might learn that their shortsighted and blurred view of planet Marianas extends "beyond the sea."

### At the end of the day

By sunset, I'm usually resigned to the quiet corner of my mind wind-

See SAIPAN on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****‘I beg to disagree’**

My good friend, retired chief justice Jose Dela Cruz, expressed his views recently criticizing the exclusive casino license legislation. The two of us have argued back and forth about the merits of gambling here in the CNMI; and while I respect his opinion, I personally disagree with his view that gambling is always bad for a community. It seems to me that if the gambling industry is well regulated and closely monitored, it can be a major source of revenue for the community.

The good judge says that the people have already spoken against having casinos on Saipan, and that's true. But that was many years

ago, when the economy was in its heyday and the Retirement Fund was still “in the black.” But since then we have seen the unfortunate demise of the Retirement Fund. It was on the verge of bankruptcy. Drastic measures had to be agreed to by the CNMI Government in the settlement agreement that was filed by the parties in court. This was done in order to preserve the life of the Fund for the roughly 3,000 members who have already retired. Their monthly pension had to be reduced by 25 percent, a huge reduction for the members, some of whom now can no longer make ends meet.

I believe it is the obligation of the CNMI government to make good on its promise to make the retirees whole, by removing the 25 percent pension reduction as it has promised, and in order to comply with the terms of the Fund Settlement Agreement. But the only way to do this is by generating additional revenue, which the CNMI Government does not have at the present. If more revenue is gener-

ated through the casino license law, then there will be more disposable income for the retirees to spend on basic family needs. For now we need the revenue to be generated from the casino license that will be issued under the new law.

Maybe a compromise is in order. I would like to suggest that we proceed with the exclusive casino license but limit the term of the exclusive license to only 30 years, with no option to renew. If after 30 years, the economy has improved where we don't need the revenue from the casino license, a sunset provision in the legislation will make the law expire on its own. Thereafter, any new casinos to be established shall be made only through a popular casino initiative voted upon by the people.

**Alexandro “Colonel” Sablan**  
*Dandan, Saipan*

**Extending CW program prolongs Abramoff agenda**

Dear Labor Secretary Thomas Perez: Citizens of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands deserve a Congressional hearing here before another transition period is rolled over them by lobbyists promoting the exact agenda Jack Abramoff's bribery of the U.S. House of Representatives accomplished. Washington hearings are attended by well-funded interests, not underemployed Americans. You are tasked with a key economic decision and have never been here to hear reliable testimony; initiating this request for a hearing, which is duly warranted.

CNMI Americans overwhelmingly want the transition period ended and investor visa laws enforced so they can benefit from economic protections all mainland citizens enjoy. The CW program enables non-visa businesses that don't hire citizens, perpetuating a failed model that guarantees poverty, imports crime and ice, and greatly expands immigration fraud, labor abuse, birth tourism, and human trafficking; our internationally acclaimed specialties.

Illegal businesses here seldom hire a citizen, mocking the intent of the U.S. investor visa program, because they prefer obedient disenfranchised persons whose U.S. status is tied to the job. Few CNMI businesses are exercising U.S. investor visa options because the CW program enables illegal operators ignoring the law, and they are the sole source of post garment era abuse. There is no economic logic for America to extend when valid businesses can easily supply a workforce from unemployed citizens, CNMI retirees in poverty, H visas, thousands of CNMI government employees certain to need private sector jobs, unlimited FAS residents, new HS graduates (and non-grads), and they will undoubtedly fill unskilled hotel needs. An extension guarantees public aid stays the main economic leg, evidenced by more than 90 percent participation in food subsidies, a national disaster guarantee to worsen if extended.

HANMI says “we need time” to train, but in 2001 the U.S. had about 2,000 mass layoffs and plant closures subject to WARN (two months) notice affecting about 660,000 employees. If 2/3 of a million Americans endured that, waiting 60 more months after the original six years to appease a handful of greedy hotels reaping record profits on the backs of 1,500 CWs at the expense of so many unemployed Americans, is uncalled for. A U.S. machine operator is trained about a week; to say citizens can't work as security guards or tour guides is ludicrous.

The big business lobby case is founded on disingenuous reasoning in three areas.

One point is the CNMI doesn't have enough skilled labor, which is true and something we never had and those able to qualify as a H-1s are long gone. CWs we are discussing don't qualify and Saipan has an overabundance of unskilled labor. Business has now coined, “qualified labor,” to mean multilingual disen-

franchised CWs that don't qualify for visas willing to work cheap in Third World conditions frozen here without travel privileges. They say you can't replace 10,000 CWs with 3,500 jobless citizens, a spin to imply we don't have enough labor to operate the hotels, which is false, proven because the hotels only employ about 1,500 CWs. This lie is propagated by politicians funded by no-visa foreigners that employ themselves and cheap CWs, while expanding immigration fraud and human trafficking. The 1,500 jobs can be easily replaced by unemployed citizens or H visas. Extending can't increase skilled labor that's not here, and our unskilled citizens need jobs but businesses won't hire them as they invest heavily to keep a status quo. Business can hire unlimited highly skilled H visas now if they really “don't have enough skilled labor,” but they refuse. Such orchestrated deceit mimics tobacco companies testifying cigarettes don't harm your health. Guam's Rep. Bordallo opposing NMI workers travel privileges to Guam shows she doesn't want the NMI unskilled labor. CHC is an exception and unlimited H-1s solves CNMI need for 200 nurses and helps our hospital.

The second myth is that locals “won't work,” but productivity and incentive are tied, and citizens can't compete with \$300-a-month labor. Our low wages are infamous, but less known is that CWs are willing to, and do, work for much less than our depressed wages to stay employed, and their tax returns evidence this. Small no-visa businesses know they aren't required to pay minimum wages and exploit it, expanding poverty, labor abuse, and damage to citizens. Our politicians privately claim locals won't work but oppose reducing the size of the CNMI government, our largest employer. Our food aid stats prove U.S. taxpayers subsidize foreign business labor costs and they should learn of such waste. Our 10K voters were just appropriated over \$32 million in additional food aid, so it's no surprise foreign grocery store owners fund politicians to extend the transition period. I can assure you, having taught thousands here; if hotels offered \$8 an hour work, the line of jobless Americans applying would exceed one mile long.

The third business claim is the wellbeing of U.S. citizen children (of CWs), odd since it was their multi-million dollar lobby effort that blocked (their parents) improved status in the Abramoff scandal, and successfully closed the much needed federal ombudsman's office in 2013. Their new strategy is to voice public support for a long pathway to citizenship scheme; maybe; if they work long and hard enough; are loyal and obedient; they may someday be allowed to stay if income guidelines are met...or if U.S. reform passes, maybe in 10 years if politicians don't change the law again or add indefinite extensions like the “Omnibus Territories Act of 2013.”

The U.S. must have one cohesive immigration policy for states

pire can go no further.

European leaders shouldn't need to be reminded of what former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in 2011 about NATO's future if Europe continues to shirk its own defense. “In the past, I've worried openly about NATO turning into a two-tiered alliance ... between those willing and able to pay the price and bear the burdens of alliance commitments, and those who enjoy the benefits of NATO membership—be they security guarantees or headquarters billets—but don't want to share the risks and the costs. This is no longer a hypothetical worry. We are there today. And it is unacceptable.”

True then. True now. Europe, time to step up.

and territories to combat abuse, end human trafficking, and to ensure the democratic ideals of our nation are upheld on U.S. soil; as nothing less is acceptable.

Business says an end will hurt the CNMI economy, but the aesthetics of unchecked poverty isn't conducive to tourism. Business has invested in cheap labor, demands its continuation; and hopes to keep wages at Third World rates, ensured by supply and demand. Citizens won't work in those conditions and foreign businesses won't employ Americans until forced.

Unlimited H visas were to provide a niche “Silicon Valley would kill for,” but Microsoft and Google didn't moved here, likely due to our shameless reputation for corruption. The prevailing wage study illustrates our labor debacle. Ending a failed system sparked federal intervention; extending it will harm citizens and ensure business demands another in 2019.

Scam businesses await your decision for a go to expand the sex trade industry; a reality federalization was meant to end, not expand. Sexual harassment of females is common because temporary CWs aren't represented, can't vote or sit on a jury; another vote to end the disgrace.

Many of us support improving CW status, but the CNMI only doesn't work. Allowing CWs to travel does work, but business won't allow it; don't want to pay them; won't let them leave.

Human rights issues from extending the status quo has lowered America's stature among nations, evidenced by China using Saipan to compare and defend their own poor record of abuse. The best solution for America is to require visas for all, like China and Philippines do, and denying Americans participation in the decision supports the ideals of organized criminals; not citizens. A hearing could also coincide with Ben Fitial's return.

Young citizens have patiently waited years for opportunity to work, start small businesses, and earn a liveable wage in Delay's petri dish of capitalism. Keeping the status quo of a failed economic model irreparably harms them, and poverty is the worst form of labor abuse.

We welcome visitors and investors from every nation but decent citizens must insist on requiring visas to work or operate business. We have a chance to build a better Commonwealth, rich with diversity; empowering stakeholders, and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**Ron Hodges**  
*Puerto Rico, Saipan*

**SAIPAN**

*From Page 10*

**EUROPE**

*From Page 10*

Beyond economic sanctions, NATO also is considering whether to fulfill a Ukrainian request for military gear—vehicles, mine-clearing equipment, fuel, ammunition. The equipment should have been there yesterday. The alliance also should send military advisers to Ukrainian command centers to coordinate intelligence sharing and deployment of equipment.

Crimea has been lost. (In many ways it's no big prize, a poor province that was a major budgetary drain on Ukraine's finances.) But Europe has to make it a painful acquisition for Putin, and signal that his ambitions for a greater Russian em-

ing down with powerful spiritual reading materials to reset the next day's journey.

Interesting the benefits of reflecting upon issues and how it eases your way through thick and thin. I happened upon a certain lyricist who wrote about the essence of reflection:

“When the pond is still, the reflection is clear; when the mind is still the reflection of life is clear; reflection brings clarity.” The seeming mad scramble for instant answers is widespread. Sadly, though, it is our very answers that would eventually haunt us down the years.






It's good to retreat or pull back if only to see your face in that still pond or mind. It grants you time to think through clearly. It brings what has often eluded us: clarity. This is especially critical when dealing with issues and the future of our children.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

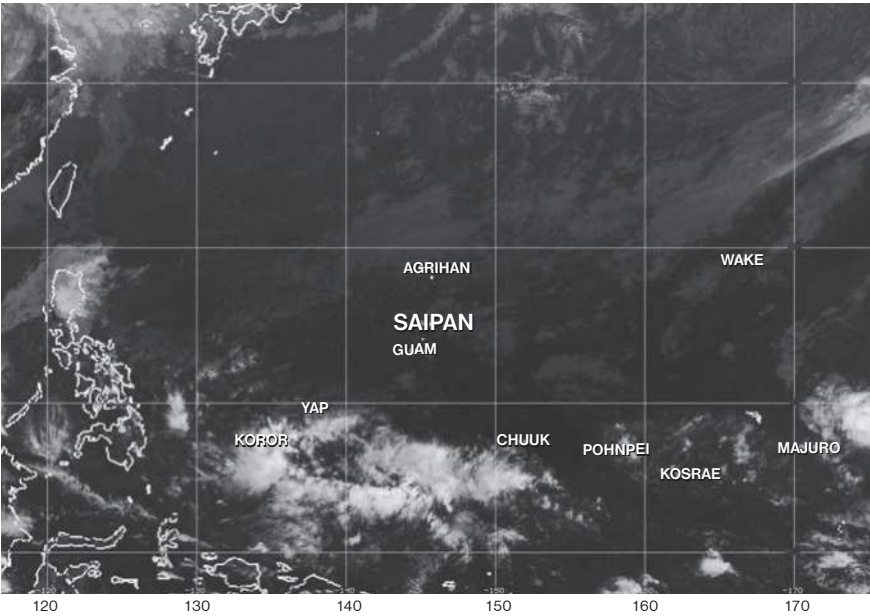
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲84 ▼51
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼70
London	Showers	▲49 ▼35
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼55
Manila	Cloudy	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼62
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲80 ▼60
New York	Snow	▲38 ▼31
Osaka	Rain	▲61 ▼54
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼37
Pusan	Rain	▲64 ▼50
Rome	Rain	▲57 ▼47
Salem	Rain	▲56 ▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲56 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲70 ▼44
Tokyo	Showers	▲64 ▼52
Washington, DC	Ice	▲38 ▼28

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E through the far northern CNMI near Pagan at 18N146E to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough undulates eastward from 4N130E through weak circulations centered southeast of Yap at 2N143E and near Butaritari atoll at 3N172E to beyond the date line at 5N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the western circulation are occurring south of Yap near Koror and southwest of Chuuk or within 220 miles a line from 7N136E to 5N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place north of the eastern circulation or east of a line from 6N171E to 11N171E. Majuro lies on the western edge of this area.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:12 AM	2:03 PM
Thursday	3:04 AM	3:04 PM
Friday	3:54 AM	4:04 PM
Saturday	4:42 AM	5:02 PM
Sunday	5:30 AM	5:59 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.  
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.  
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 26, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA1746 8:55pm 10:52pm Daily via Rota	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA1746 7:30pm 8:10pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)  D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam  UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)</b> D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	<b>TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN</b> D2885 4:45pm 12:20am +1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b> D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b> D2881 10:00pm 5:15am +1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
<b>SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)</b> D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	<b>WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN</b> D2883 5:15pm 12:20am +1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Navy, Sinajana partner to beautify village

By JOANNA DELFIN  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**SINAJANA, Guam**—Sinajana has a new facelift thanks to Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) 1 Det. Guam Sailors and families, who picked up trash along the village's thoroughfares last March 22.

Sinajana Mayor Robert Hofmann said CRG-1 Det. Guam

has participated in various community activities in the village to include cleanups, helping at the senior citizens center and participating in the village's school events.

"They could be doing anything else on a Saturday morning but they chose to be here in our community of Sinajana so we're really pleased at that," Hofmann

said. "We've been together with our sister command for about 10 years and it's wonderful. I don't know if this program exists anywhere else throughout the world but it's a great image for the military and very beneficial for our schools and community."

During the event, volunteers divided into groups and picked up trash along the village's main

and side streets as well as the cul-de-sacs.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (EXW) Thomas Trowbridge said he is glad to participate in outreach events that reinforce camaraderie and partnership between the Navy and village residents.

"I volunteered for the COMREL today because I believe indubitably in strengthening

the ties between Guam and the Navy community, and I think it's an all-around good thing for all parties involved," he said. "I think it fosters a good relationship because a lot of Sailors are here for more than a year. We live here, we all live together and I believe that when we all pitch in and help, everybody will be happy."

More than 25 sailors and

family members volunteered their time as part of the command's sister village program. Approximately 150 pounds of trash were collected within the four-hour community outreach event, according to Hofmann.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209.



U.S. NAVY PHOTOS BY JOANNA DELFIN

Sailors from Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam pick up trash along the road during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam last March 22. Command sailors helped beautify their sister village and fostered relationships between the local and military communities.



Sailors from Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam review routes with Sinajana Vice Mayor Rudy Iriarte during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam March 22.



Sailors from Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam pick up trash along the road during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam last March 22.



Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Carolina Jose, of Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam, picks up trash along the road during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam last March 22.



Sinajana Mayor Robert Hofmann delivers brief remarks to sailors from Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam before a community relations event in the village last March 22.



Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Matthew Patrick, of Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam, picks up trash along the road during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam last March 22.

## Guam police arrest 3 men in rocket launcher search

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—Police in Guam say an investigation into a missing rocket launcher led them to arrest three men who were allegedly planning to commit a robbery and a homicide.

*Pacific Daily News* reports that police also on Friday recovered the rocket launcher when they served a warrant on a home. The weapon had gone missing from a U.S. Air Force base in South Korea. Police say it wasn't going to be used in either crime.

Police say their efforts foiled the men's plan to rob a game room. They aren't releasing details on the alleged homicide plan.

Court documents say the man who turned over the rocket launcher to police had tried and failed to sell it. Police are still investigating in the case.



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Thomas Trowbridge, of Coastal Riverine Group 1 Det. Guam, reviews routes with Sinajana Vice Mayor Rudy Iriarte during a community relations event in Sinajana, Guam last March 22.



# Business

## Whispers, secrets and lies? Anonymity apps rise

**NEW YORK (AP)**—At a time when Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are pushing people to

put forward their most polished, put-together selves, a new class of mobile applications aims for

a bit more honesty.

Among the latest is Secret, created by two former Google

engineers who were looking for a way to let people deliver genuine feedback to co-workers. With the app, friends and friends of friends can share their deepest and darkest thoughts, along with gossip, criticism and even plans to propose marriage, under a cloak of near-anonymity.

"This idea that you have to craft this perfect image online," says Secret's 30-year-old co-founder Chrys Bader-Wechseler. "That's stressful. We want to remove that stress."

Secret joins a handful of apps such as Confide, Whisper and Yik Yak that have become popular—and in some cases, notorious—in recent months, by offering users a way to communicate while cloaking their identities.

What happens when people

are free to say what they want without a name and profile photo attached? It's an experiment in human nature that harkens back to the early days of the Web, when faceless masses with made-up nicknames ruled chat rooms and online message boards.

In the past decade, anonymity has been fading. As Facebook soared to dominate online social networks, the trend shifted toward profiles, real names and the melding of online and offline identities. But as people's online social circles grew from friends to parents, grandparents, in-laws, colleagues and bosses, many became increasingly reluctant to share as openly as they once did.

"People go on Facebook and say they just got engaged. But what you don't see is 'I am going to propose today,'" says Se-

cret co-founder and CEO David Byttow, 32.

Launched in 2012, Whisper is especially popular with teenagers and 20-somethings, with the bulk of its users under 24. Yik Yak, released late last year, made headlines recently when a California high school went into lockdown after someone used the app to post an anonymous bomb threat.

Although anonymity apps are being criticized as platforms for bullying, supporters say they can be tools for preventing mischief. They also have a cathartic value for some users.

"My baby boy passed away recently. I saw his picture today and cried. I cried because I love him and miss him. I'm a guy, so no one thinks to talk to me," read a recent post on Secret.



David Byttow, left, and Chrys Bader-Wechseler, are photographed Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the South By Southwest Interactive festival in Austin, Texas.

## Report: Obama to give up NSA's phone call sweep

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The National Security Agency may be getting out of the business of sweeping up and storing vast amounts of data on people's phone calls.

The Obama administration this week is expected to propose that Congress overhaul the electronic surveillance program by having phone companies hold onto the call records as they do now, according to a government official briefed on the proposal. The New York Times first reported the details of the proposal Monday night. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the plan.

The White House proposal would end the government's practice of sweeping up the phone records of millions of Americans and holding onto those records for five years so the numbers can be searched for national security reasons.

Instead, the White House is expected to propose that the records be kept for 18 months, as the phone companies are already required to do by federal regulation.

Details of the government's secret phone records collection program were disclosed last year by a former NSA systems analyst. Privacy advocates were outraged to learn that the government was holding onto phone records of innocent Americans for up to five years.

In January, President Barack Obama tasked his administration with coming up with an alternative to the current counterterrorism program. Obama also said that the option of having the phone companies hold the records posed problems.

"This will not be simple," Obama said. An independent review panel suggested that the practice of the government collecting the phone records be

replaced by a third party or the phone companies holding the records, and the government would access them as needed.

"Both of these options pose difficult problems," Obama said in January. "Relying solely on the records of multiple providers, for example, could require companies to alter their procedures in ways that raise new privacy concerns."

And the phone companies have been against this option, as well.

In several meetings with White House staff since December, phone company executives came out strongly opposed to proposals that would shift the custody of the records from the NSA to the telecoms. The executives said they would only accept such changes to the NSA program if they were legally required and if that requirement was spelled out in legislation.

## 5 Madoff ex-workers convicted in case's 1st trial

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Five former employees of imprisoned financier Bernard Madoff were convicted Monday at the end of a six-month trial that cast them as the long arms of their boss, telling an elaborate web of lies to hide a fraud that enriched them and cheated investors out of billions of dollars.

The trial, one of the longest in the storied history of Manhattan federal court, was the first to result from the massive fraud revealed in December 2008 when Madoff ran out of money and was arrested. And it was a renunciation of Madoff's claim when he pleaded guilty to fraud charges in March 2009 before trial that he acted alone.

"The evidence was just overwhelming," juror Craig Parise told reporters as he left the courthouse.

Another juror, Sheila Amata, said she hoped "this brings some level of closure" to the victims. She added that the "facts spoke for themselves" in the case and that Madoff, who is serving a 150-year prison sentence, "seemed to have a split personality." Evidence showed him showering employees, friends and some select customers with favors and riches while he plundered the investment accounts of others.

The case focused on five people who prosecutors said helped Madoff carry out the fraud.

Each was convicted of conspiracy to defraud clients, securities fraud and falsifying the books and records of a broker dealer. Prosecutors obtained convictions on all 31 charges, though only one defendant was charged in some counts.

Prosecutors unveiled hun-

dreds of exhibits and showcased dozens of witnesses to try to prove charges against Annette Bongiorno, 66, Madoff's longtime secretary; Daniel Bonventre, 67, his director of operations for investments; JoAnn Crupi, 53, an account manager; and Jerome O'Hara, 51, and George Perez, 48, computer programmers.

The maximum potential sentences range from 78 years to 220 years in prison when the charges for each defendant are stacked up, but the actual sentences are likely to be far below that once the judge takes into consideration prior records and other facts unique to each defendant.

The defendants largely took the verdicts in stride except for Crupi, who looked shocked when the first guilty verdict was read and later shook her head.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Coast Guard working to reopen shipping channel

**GALVESTON, Texas (AP)**—As workers in bright yellow suits picked quarter-sized "tar balls" out of the sand along Galveston Bay on Monday, strong incoming tides kept washing more ashore. Elsewhere, crews lined up miles of oil booms to keep oil away from the shoreline and bird habitats, two days after a collision in the Houston Ship Channel dumped as many as 170,000 gallons of oil from a barge into the water along the Gulf Coast and shut down one of the nation's busiest seaports. With cleanup well underway, the Coast Guard said it hoped to have the channel open to barge traffic as quickly as possible but that more tests were needed to confirm the water and the vessels traveling through the channel were free of oil.

#### Disney to buy YouTube video producer Maker Studios

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Disney said Monday that it is buying YouTube channel operator Maker Studios for \$500 million as the family entertainment giant seeks to stay in front of younger viewers who are increasingly watching short videos online. It's the latest and largest acquisition of a YouTube channel network by a major Hollywood studio and represents another vote of confidence in the video service as an incubator of talent. The Walt Disney Co. said it would pay up to \$450 million more in bonuses if Maker meets performance targets, the company said. The Maker deal is Disney's biggest acquisition since it bought "Star Wars" creator Lucasfilm Ltd. for \$4.06 billion in late 2012.



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,276.69	1,857.44	4,226.38
-26.08	-9.08	-50.40
-0.16%	-0.49%	-1.18%

### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.0951	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7566
British Pound	0.6065	Indian Rupee	60.56
Canadian Dollar	1.12	Indonesian Rupiah	11379.8
Chinese Yuan	6.1839	Japanese Yen	102.3178
Euro	0.7232	Malaysian Ringgit	3.3012
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1697
		Philippine Peso	45.0855
		Singapore Dollar	1.2686
		South Korean Won	1079.29
		Swiss Franc	0.8811
		Taiwan Dollar	30.5229
		Thailand Baht	32.5367



# Nation

## 14 dead in Washington mudslide; search continues

**OSO, Wash. (AP)**—As the search for survivors of a destructive Washington state mudslide ballooned Monday to include scores of people who were still unaccounted for, the death toll from the wall of trees, rocks and debris that swept through a rural community rose to at least 14.

In the struggle to find loved ones, family members and neighbors used chain saws and their bare hands to dig through wreckage that was tangled by the mud into broken piles.

Late Monday, the list of potentially missing people topped 176 following the disaster Sat-

urday about 55 miles northeast of Seattle. But Snohomish County Emergency Management Director John Pennington stressed that authorities believed the number included

many duplicate names.

"The 176, I believe very strongly is not a number we're going to see in fatalities. I believe it's going to drop dramatically," he said.

The number of those possibly missing grew dramatically from an estimated 108 earlier Monday. But Pennington said the list was compiled from information provided by the public, and of-

ficials were trying to cross off reports that likely described the same person. The list included construction workers who were working in the area and people just driving by.

The lack of definitive information two days after the massive slide destroyed a cluster of homes at the bottom of a river valley ratcheted up anxieties.

"The situation is very grim," Snohomish County Fire District 21 Chief Travis Hots said, stressing that authorities are still in rescue mode and are holding out hope. But he noted: "We have not found anyone alive on this pile since Saturday."

Snohomish County sheriff's spokeswoman Shari Ireton said Monday afternoon that search and rescue crews discovered an additional six bodies, bringing the number of fatalities to at least 14. The slide critically injured several others.

About two dozen houses were flattened, and the debris blocked a mile-long stretch of state highway near Arlington.

Cory Kuntz and several volunteers worked Monday with chain saws to cut through the roof of his uncle's house, which was swept about 150 yards from its previous location. Kuntz said his aunt, Linda McPherson, was killed. He and the others pulled out files, his aunt's wallet and a box filled with pictures and slides.

"When you look at it, you just kind of go in shock, and you kind of go numb," he said, adding that there were more people out helping Sunday. On Monday, they couldn't get through roadblocks.

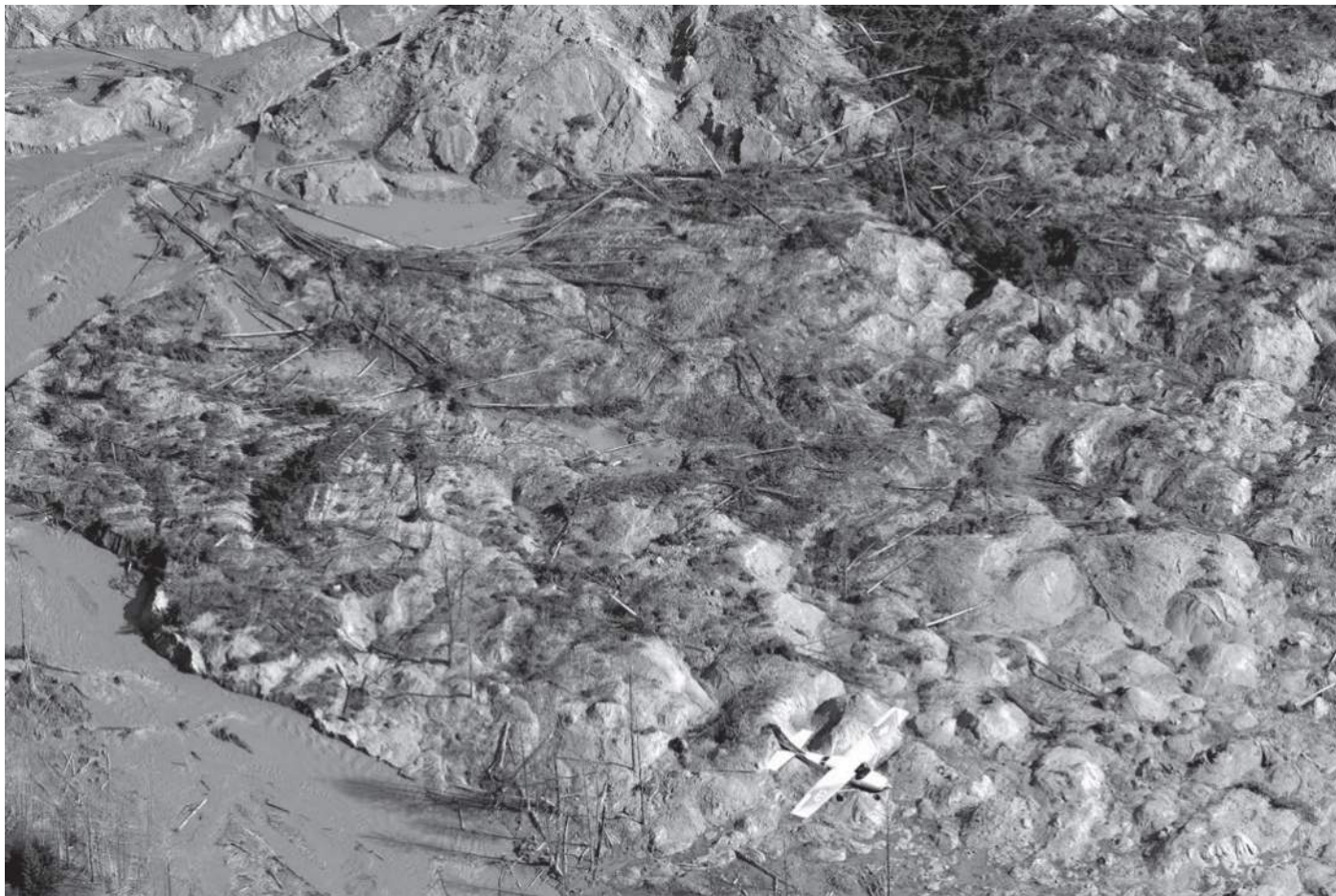
"They are all eager to get down here, but unfortunately they can't. It just shows how tight this community is," he said.

Doug Reuwsaat, who grew up in the area and was also helping in the search, said authorities had told people to stay away.

"We're related to a lot of these people from around here. So that's why we're here," he said.

The mudslide struck Saturday morning, a time when most people are at home. Of the 49 structures in the neighborhood, authorities believe at least 25 were full-time residences.

Monday's search included aircraft, dogs and heavy equipment.



A Civil Air Patrol plane flies over the massive mudslide that killed at least eight people and left dozens missing as shown in this aerial photo, Monday, March 24, 2014, near Arlington, Wash.

### Washington landslide: Big, deadly and dangerous

From the air, the area devastated by a massive landslide in rural Washington state looks like a muddy lake of felled trees, dirt, rocks and remnants of what used to be people's homes.

As search efforts stretch into the third day, here are five things to know about the catastrophe:

■ **VOICES CALLING OUT:** Late Saturday, rescuers heard people yelling for help but were unable to reach anyone. The soupy, quicksand-like mud was so thick and deep that searchers had to turn back. When crews were able to get back onto the debris field Sunday, they found only more bodies. "We didn't see or hear any signs of life," Snohomish County Fire District 21 Chief Travis Hots said Sunday evening.

■ **THE DEAD, THE MISSING, THE DAMAGE:** The death toll is at least 14. On Monday, authorities said 108 names were on the list of people reported missing or unaccounted for, but they cautioned that figure likely would go down. Dozens of structures in a riverside community were destroyed, including many full-time homes.

■ **BIG WALL OF MUD:** The 1-square-mile mudslide that struck late Saturday morning was described as a "big wall of mud and debris." It was reported to be 15 feet deep in some areas. It blocked a portion of State Route 530 near the town of Oso, about 55 miles north of Seattle.

■ **FLOOD WORRIES:** The slide also crashed into the North Fork of the Still-

aguamish River, blocking it. The river continuing to back up, officials said. Authorities said Monday that at least seven homes are now flooded, and more flooding is expected.

■ **POSSIBLE CAUSES:** Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management officials say the area has a history of unstable land. A slide also happened there in 2006. Authorities believe the latest slide was caused by recent heavy rainfall that saturated and destabilized the ground. David Montgomery, an earth and space sciences professor at the University of Washington, said these deep-seated slides tend to occur from rainfall over months or seasons. "This was a big deep one, a giant slump," he said. (AP)

#### ACROSS THE NATION

##### 4 arrested in World Trade Center jump

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Three extreme-skydiving enthusiasts accused of parachuting off the 1 World Trade Center tower last fall were arrested Monday, authorities said, in a second criminal case in two weeks arising from surreptitious stunts at the nation's tallest skyscraper. The three daredevils and someone accused of being an accomplice were facing charges including felony burglary in a Sept. 30 leap from the building, where a teenage boy was arrested on March 16. Authorities said the teen had slipped through a gap in a fence, eluded an inattentive security guard and spent about two hours atop the 1,776-foot-tall tower. The incidents have raised questions about security at the lower Manhattan site, which is supposed to be one of the most tightly protected in the country. The site is owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

##### Navy breaks down ice camp north of Alaska

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Cracks in polar sea ice north of Alaska will force the closing of an ice camp supporting a Navy submarine exercise, the Navy announced Monday. Ice Exercise 2014 will continue but temporary structures erected as Camp Nautilus about 150 miles north of Prudhoe Bay began to come down Sunday, the Navy said in the announcement issued from Norfolk, Va. All personnel are safe, the Navy said. The Virginia-class attack submarine USS *New Mexico* and the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Hampton* were taking part and will continue collecting data and conducting drills until they exit the Arctic for open water, the Navy said.

### Union: Train operator in Chicago crash 'tired'

**CHICAGO (AP)**—An operator of a Chicago public-transit train that jumped the tracks and scaled an escalator at one of nation's busiest airports Monday may have dozed off, a union official said.

The woman said she had worked extensive overtime recently and was "extremely tired" at the time of the accident, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 President Robert Kelly told a news conference.

The derailment happened just

before 3 a.m. Monday at the end of the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line at O'Hare International Airport. The timing of the accident helped avoid an enormous disaster, as the underground Blue Line station is usually packed with travelers. More than 30 people were hurt, but none had life-threatening injuries.

A CTA supervisor and another worker near the top of the escalator said they saw the train enter at a normal rate of speed, about 15 mph, accord-

ing to Kelly.

"The next thing they heard the sound (of impact) and the yelling and the screaming," he said.

Investigators had not drawn any conclusions about the cause of the accident, National Transportation Safety Board official Tim DePaape said Monday afternoon, but were looking into whether faulty brakes, signals or human error were factors.

The train is designed so that if an operator becomes incapacitated and his or her hand slips

off the controls, it should come to a stop. Kelly speculated that, upon impact, inertia may have thrown the operator against the hand switch, accelerating it enough to send it catapulting onto the escalator.

"I heard a 'Boom!' and when I got off the train, the train was all the way up the escalator," passenger Denise Adams told reporters. "It was a lot of panic."

The train operator, who has worked for the CTA for about a year, suffered a leg injury and has been released from the hospital. She will be interviewed by investigators Tuesday, Kelly said.

Asked by a reporter whether she may have nodded off, Kelly responded, "The indication is there. Yes."

Kelly described the train operator after the accident as distraught, but still able to help passengers.

"She immediately got out of the cab and started asking everybody and checking to make sure that everybody was OK," he said.

Jumping the track likely dissipated the forward movement, thus lessening the accident's severity, said Joseph Schwieterman, a transportation expert at DePaul University.



## Asia

## Officials: Missing plane went down in Indian Ocean

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—After 17 days of desperation and doubt over the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, the country's officials said an analysis of satellite data points to a "heart-breaking" conclusion: Flight 370 met its end in the southern reaches of the Indian Ocean, and none of those aboard survived.

The somber announcement late Monday by Prime Minister Najib Razak left unresolved many more troubling questions about what went wrong aboard the Boeing 777 to take it so far off-course.

■ ■ ■

**BEIJING** (AP)—China demanded Tuesday that Malaysia turn over satellite data used to conclude that a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet was lost in the southern Indian Ocean with no survivors during a flight to Beijing.

Among the flight's 239 passengers, 153 were Chinese nationals, making the incident a highly emotional one for Beijing. Family members of the missing passengers have complained bitterly about a lack of reliable information and some suspect they are not being told the whole truth.

Deputy Foreign Minister Xie Hangsheng told Malaysia's ambassador to Beijing that China wanted to know what exactly led Malaysia to announce Monday night that the plane had been lost, China's Foreign Ministry said on its web site.

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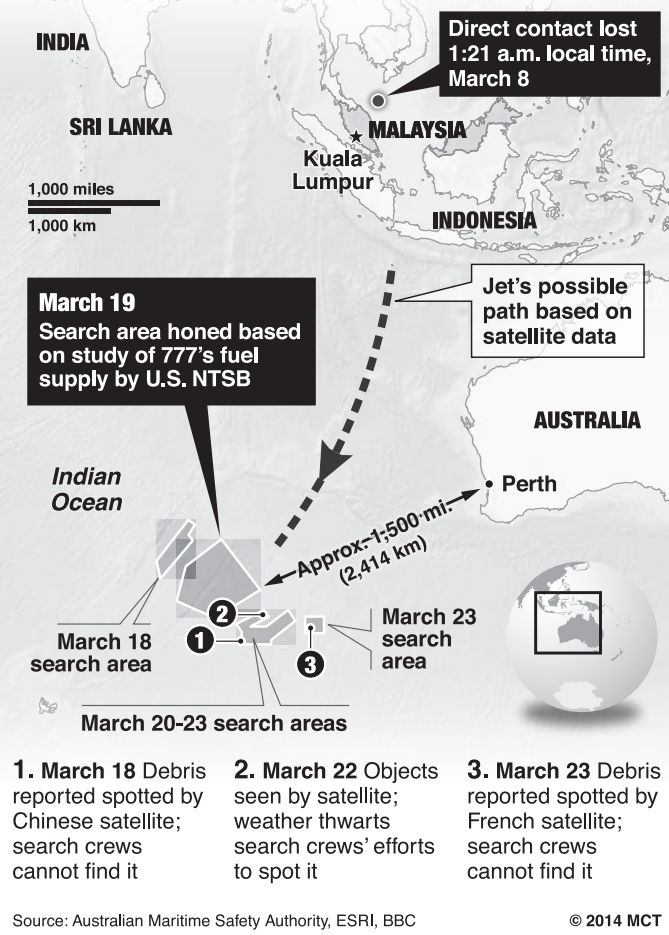
It also unleashed a maelstrom of sorrow and anger among the families of the jet's 239 passengers and crew.

A solemn Najib, clad in a black suit, read a brief statement about what he called an unparalleled study of the jet's last-known signals to a satellite. That analysis showed that the missing plane, which took off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing early on March 8, veered "to a remote location, far from any possible landing sites."

"It is therefore with deep sadness and regret that I must inform you that, according to this new data, Flight MH370 ended in the southern Indian

## Weather thwarts search effort

A series of sightings by satellite of possible debris has affected the areas of the southern Indian Ocean being searched for the remains of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Bad weather halted the search efforts in the area on March 25.



Ocean," he said.

His carefully chosen words did not directly address the fate of those aboard. But in a separate message, sent to some of their relatives just before he spoke, Malaysia Airlines officials said that "we have to assume beyond any reasonable doubt that MH370 has been lost and that none of those on board survived."

Officials said they concluded that the flight had been lost in the deep waters west of Perth, Australia, based on more thorough analysis of the brief signals the plane sent every hour to a satellite belonging to Inmarsat, a British company, even after other communication systems on the jetliner shut down.

The pings did not include any location information. But Inmarsat and British aviation officials used "a type of analysis never before used in an investigation of this sort" to zero in on the plane's last direction,

as it reached the end of its fuel, Najib said.

In a statement, Inmarsat said the company used "detailed analysis and modelling" of transmissions from the Malaysia Airlines jet and other known flights to describe "the likely direction of flight of MH370."

Najib gave no indication of exactly where in the Indian Ocean the plane was last heard from, but searchers have sighted possible debris in an area about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest of Perth.

High waves, gale-force winds and low-hanging clouds forced the multinational search to be suspended for 24 hours Tuesday, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said in a statement.

Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss, who is responsible for the search coordination, said Tuesday in Canberra the determination that the plane had crashed shifts the search to

a new phase, but that it would be a difficult and long one.

"The Malaysian announcement is purely based on the satellite imagery that's available, the calculations about fuel and capacity of the aircraft to stay in the air, so it's really a long, long way away before much can be done by way of physical examination," he said.

He said that under international agreements governing air travel "Malaysia needs to take control" and decide how to proceed.

Truss said the Australian naval supply ship HMAS Success had been in the area where objects had been spotted Monday, but its crew had been unable to find anything. He said he did not expect the search for debris would be scaled back in the short term.

"Obviously, recovery of any kind of debris that may be related to the aircraft will be important for the investigative stage," he said. "So it's still important for us to try and find as much of the aircraft as possible."

There is also a race against the clock to find any trace of the plane that could lead them to the location of the black boxes, the common name for the cockpit voice and data recorders, whose battery-powered "pinger" could stop sending signals within two weeks. The batteries are designed to last at least a month and can last longer. The plane disappeared March 8.

Some of the relatives who gathered to listen to Najib, met the news with shrieks and uncontrolled sobs. Others collapsed into the arms of loved ones.

"My son! My son!" cried a woman in a group of about 50 gathered at a hotel near Beijing's airport, before falling to her knees. Minutes later, medical teams carried one elderly man out of the conference room on a stretcher, his face covered by a jacket.

In Kuala Lumpur, screams came from inside the Hotel Bangi Putrajaya, where some of the families have been given rooms.

Selamat Omar, father of a 29-year-old aviation engineer aboard the flight, said in a telephone interview that he and other families were waiting for word about whether they would be flown to Australia, closer to where it is believed the plane went down.

"We accept the news of the tragedy. It is fate," Selamat said.

But Sarah Bajc, the girlfriend of an American passenger, Texas-native Philip Wood, said that the announcement based only on data, without any recovered wreckage put resolution beyond reach.

"I need closure to be certain but cannot keep on with public efforts against all odds. I STILL feel his presence, so perhaps it was his soul all along," she

## What we know, and still don't, on Malaysian plane

A summary of the questions answered, and still pending, about the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 after Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's Monday announcement:

## WHAT WE KNOW

**THE PLANE CRASHED:** Najib said satellite data showed the flight "ended in the southern Indian Ocean," confirming that the Boeing 777 that disappeared more than two weeks ago went down in a remote corner of the ocean, "far from any possible landing sites."

**ITS LAST POSITION:** A British company calculated satellite data obtained from the remote area of the ocean, using analysis never before used in an aviation investigation of this kind, and pinpointed the last spot the flight was seen in the air was in the middle of the ocean west of Perth, Australia.

**NO SURVIVORS:** Najib left little doubt that all 239 crew and passengers had perished in the crash; the father of an aviation engineer on the flight said, "we accept the news of the tragedy. It is fate."

## QUESTIONS REMAIN

**WHO AND HOW:** Malaysian authorities have not ruled out any possible explanation for what happened to the jet, but have said the evidence so far suggests it was deliberately turned back across Malaysia to the Strait of Malacca, with its communications systems disabled. They are unsure what happened next. Authorities are considering the possibilities including terrorism, sabotage, catastrophic mechanical failure or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or someone else on board.

**WHAT'S FLOATING IN THE OCEAN:** The prime minister didn't address whether investigators had confirmed floating objects in the ocean and images captured by several countries' search parties, including that of France and China, were debris from the plane. (AP)

wrote in an email. "Now Philip's family and I will need some time for private grief."

After Najib's announcement, some of the relatives of the Chinese passengers went before cameras to criticize the Malaysian officials who "have concealed, delayed and hid the truth" about what happened to the plane. About two-thirds of the passengers on board were Chinese.

"If the 154 of our loved ones lose their lives, then Malaysia Airlines, the government of Malaysia and the military are really the executors of our loved ones," said a spokesman for the group who, like many Chinese, would give only his surname, Jiang.

But the announcement does nothing to answer why the plane disappeared shortly after take-off. More specifically, it sheds no light on investigators' questions about possible mechanical or electrical failure, hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or someone else on board.

Malaysia's police chief reiterated Monday that all the passengers had been cleared of suspicion, but that the pilots and crew were still being investigated. He would not comment on whether officials had recovered the files that were deleted a month earlier from the home flight simulator of the chief pilot.

U.S. deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes stopped

short Monday of saying the U.S. had independent confirmation of the status of the missing airliner. He noted the conclusion of Malaysian authorities and said the U.S., which has been aiding the search, was focused on that southern corridor of the ocean.

The search for the wreckage and the plane's recorders could take years because the ocean can extend to up to 7,000 meters (23,000 feet) deep in that part of the ocean. It took two years to find the black box from an Air France jet that went down in the Atlantic Ocean on a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris in 2009, and searchers knew within days where the crash site was.

An Australian navy support vessel, the Ocean Shield, was expected to arrive in several days in the search zone, a defense official said. The ship is equipped with acoustic detection equipment that can search for the black boxes. Without them, it would be virtually impossible for investigators to say definitively what happened to the plane.

"We've got to get lucky," said John Goglia, a former member of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. "It's a race to get to the area in time to catch the black box pinger while it's still working."

The U.S. Pacific Command said before Najib's announcement that it was sending a black box locator in case a debris field is located.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## NKorea accuses US of hurting relations with South

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—North Korea accused the United States Monday of undermining the prospect of improved relations with South Korea and the revival of six-party talks on its nuclear program by escalating "hostile" military activity and policies. Pyongyang's deputy U.N. ambassador Ri Tong Il said at a news conference that the North's nuclear weapons are not a "political bargaining chip." He warned that as long as the U.S. continues "nuclear blackmails" North Korea will continue to take "additional measures"—which he refused to disclose—"in order to demonstrate the power of the self-defensive nuclear deterrent."

## Climate scientists in Japan to study warming risks

**YOKOHAMA, Japan** (AP)—Top climate scientists assessing the impact of global warming say that along with the enormous risks facing humanity are opportunities to improve public health and build a better world. Scientists from 100 countries meeting in this Japanese port city are putting finishing touches Tuesday on a massive report emphasizing the gravity of the threat facing communities from the polar regions to the tropics from climate change. Japan's environment minister, Nobuteru Ishihara, pledged to make Tokyo's 2020 Games an "Environmental Olympics" as the city devises new policies to improve energy efficiency.



# World

## West seeks to isolate Russia over Ukraine dispute

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—Seeking to isolate Russia, the U.S. and Western allies declared Monday they are indefinitely cutting Moscow out of a major international coalition and warned they stand ready to order tougher economic penalties if Vladimir Putin presses further into Ukraine.

The moves came amid a flurry of diplomatic jockeying as the West grappled for ways to punish Russia for its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and prevent the crisis from escalating.

President Barack Obama and the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan met in the Netherlands for an emergency meeting of the Group of Seven. In a joint statement after their 90-minute meeting, the leaders said they were suspending their participation with Russia in the Group of Eight major industrial nations until Moscow “changes course.”

The G-7 leaders instead plan to meet this summer in Brussels, symbolically gathering in the headquarters city of the European Union and NATO, two Western organizations that have sought to bolster ties with Ukraine.

“Today, we reaffirm that Russia’s actions will have significant consequences,” the leaders’



President Barack Obama, center rear, gathered with G7 world leaders clockwise from center left, European Council president Herman Van Rompuy, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso, in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday March 24, 2014, in the sidelines of the Nuclear security Summit.

statement said. “This clear violation of international law is a serious challenge to the rule of law around the world and should be a concern for all nations.”

In an unexpected development, Russia’s foreign minister Sergey Lavrov met separately in The Hague with his Ukrainian counterpart, the highest level

of contact between the two nations since Russia moved forces into Crimea nearly a month ago. U.S. officials said they

welcomed the meeting but challenged Russia to take further steps to de-escalate the conflict. Lavrov sought to downplay

the significance of the West purging Russia from the G-8, describing the economic partnership as an informal club that has been superseded by other international forums.

“If our Western partners believe that such format is no longer needed, let it be so,” Lavrov said. “We aren’t clinging for that format, and we won’t see a big problem if there are no such meetings for a year, or a year-and-a-half.”

Russia’s actions have sparked one of Europe’s deepest political crises in decades and drawn comparisons to the Cold War era’s tensions between East and West. Obama and other Western leaders have condemned Russia’s movements and ordered economic sanctions on Putin’s close associates, though those punishments appear to have done little to change the Russian president’s calculus.

Hours before world leaders began meeting in The Hague, Russian forces stormed a Ukrainian military base in Crimea, the third such action in as many days. Ukraine’s fledgling government responded by ordering its troops to pull back from the strategically important peninsula.

## Ukraine orders troop pullout from Crimea

**NOVOOZERNOE, Crimea** (AP)—Russia’s foreign minister met with his Ukrainian counterpart for the first time on Monday and demanded more autonomy for Ukraine’s regions, even as Ukraine under pressure ordered its troops out from Crimea after the Russian seizure of military bases there.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in an unexpected move agreed to the highest level meeting yet between the Russian government and a representative of the new Ukrainian government that Moscow has opposed vociferously over the past month.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in the Hague, Netherlands.

Lavrov told Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia that Russia continues to want constitutional changes in Ukraine that would give more autonomy to all regions of Ukraine.

Russia is eager to retain its influence in Ukraine’s Russian-speaking eastern regions and prevent Ukraine from joining NATO. It has pushed for the new Ukraine to become a loose federation - demands the new Ukrainian government has rejected.

Before the meeting, Desh-

### Ukraine’s military withdrawal

Ukraine’s acting President Olexander Turchynov says he has ordered the withdrawal of the military from Crimea, after almost all their bases were taken over by pro-Russian forces.



chytsia said his government fears a Russian military build-up near Ukraine’s border. “The possibility of a military invasion is very high. We are very much worried about this concentration of troops on our eastern border,” he said.

The concerns have been deepened in by the intense military pressure Russia has applied in Crimea since Russian President Vladimir Putin formally annexed the peninsula last week. Russian forces

have commandeered ships and broke into walled military installations with armored personnel carriers.

In the bay of Donuzlav in western Crimea, dozens of Ukrainian sailors marooned on the Konstantin Olshanskiy navy landing vessel abandoned ship Monday after weeks of tension and uncertainty. The Olshanskiy and two other warships have been trapped in the bay since Russian forces scuttled mothballed ships at the bay’s inlet.

## Chileans worry over string of 300 quakes in north

**SANTIAGO, Chile** (AP)—More than 300 earthquakes have shaken Chile’s far-northern coast the past week, keeping people on edge as scientists say there is no way to tell if the unusual string of tremors is a harbinger of an impending disaster.

The unnerving activity began with a strong magnitude-6.7 quake on March 16 that caused more than 100,000 people to briefly evacuate low-lying areas, although no tsunami materialized and there was little physical damage from the shaking.

But the land has not settled down. More than a dozen perceptible quakes were felt in the city of Iquique just on Monday.

“The situation is out of the ordinary. There’s a mix of a string of tremors and their

aftershocks that make things more complex to evaluate,” Mario Pardo, deputy head of the Universidad de Chile seismology center, told the local newspaper La Tercera. “We can’t rule out a larger quake.”

Chile is one of the world’s most earthquake-prone countries. A magnitude-8.8 quake and ensuing tsunami in central Chile in 2010 killed more than 500 people, destroyed 220,000 homes, and washed away docks, riverfronts and seaside resorts.

The strongest earthquake ever recorded on Earth also happened in Chile—a magnitude-9.5 tremor in 1960 that killed more than 5,000 people.

The last recorded big quake to hit the northern area around Iquique was a devastating

magnitude-8.3 in 1877. It unleashed a 24-meter-high (nearly 80-foot-high) tsunami, causing major damage along the Chile-Peru coast and fatalities as far away as Hawaii and Japan.

“The latest string of quakes is noteworthy because the last one happened in this seismic zone more than 130 years ago,” said Paulina Gonzalez, an expert on seismic analysis at the Universidad de Santiago. “It’s a zone where quakes should happen more often, and they haven’t in a very long time.”

A major quake in the country’s north would be a potential threat to the economy of Chile, which is the world’s top copper producing nation. Most of the Chilean mining industry is in the northern regions.

## Egyptian court sentences nearly 530 to death

**CAIRO** (AP)—An Egyptian court Monday sentenced to death nearly 530 suspected backers of ousted President Mohammed Morsi over a deadly attack on a police station, capping a swift, two-day mass trial in which defense attorneys were not allowed to present their case.

It was the largest single batch of death sentences in the world in recent years, Amnesty International said. The U.S. State Department said it “defies logic” that so many people could get a fair trial in just two sessions.

The verdicts by a court in the city of Minya are subject

to appeal and are likely to be overturned.

But the outcome stunned human rights activists and raised fears that the rule of law is being swept away in the crackdown waged by the military-backed interim government against Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood since his overthrow last summer.

The government is conducting a series of mass trials of Brotherhood supporters, some with hundreds of defendants.

“It turns the judiciary in Egypt from a tool for achieving justice into an instrument for taking revenge,” said Moham-

med Zarie, a Cairo-based human rights lawyer.

Egypt’s Foreign Ministry brushed off the criticism, saying in a statement that the judiciary is “entirely independent and is not influenced in any way by the executive branch of government.”

The government has branded the Brotherhood a terrorist group, a claim it denies. Some 16,000 people have been arrested since Morsi’s ouster, including most of the group’s top leaders as well as large numbers swept up by police during pro-Morsi protests.

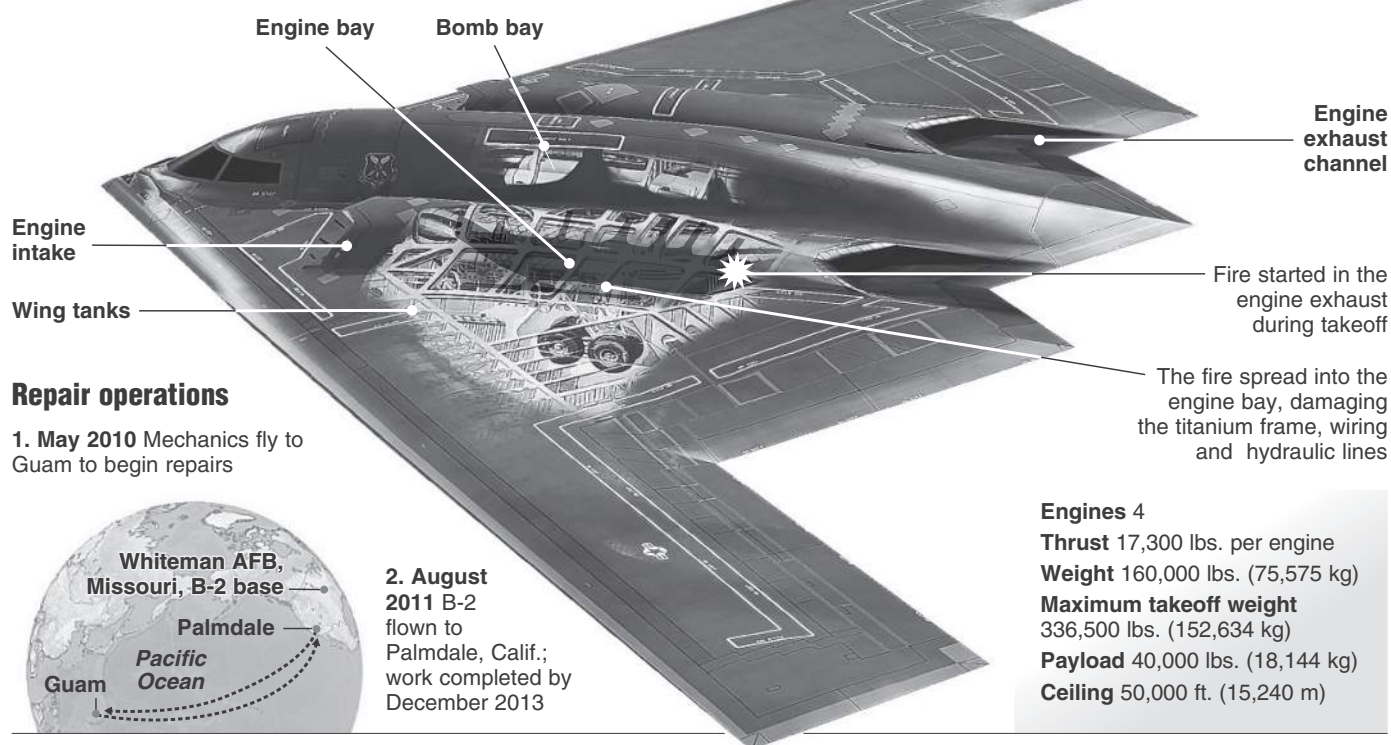


## Focus

Resurrecting a stealthy  
GIANTBy W.J. HENNIGAN  
Los Angeles Times

## Working from the ground up

On Feb. 26, 2010, a fire damaged a B-2 stealth bomber during takeoff in Guam. The repairs on the \$2.1 billion aircraft required a complex operation involving 300 workers.



Source: U.S. Air Force, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Graphic: Javier Zarracina, Los Angeles Times © 2014 MCT

**LOS ANGELES**—It wasn't long after the morning sun came up over the Mojave Desert that Sean Byrne noticed a black speck fluttering just above the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

He knew what it was, as did the other workers from Northrop Grumman Corp. surrounding him. They were waiting on this wind-swept tarmac at the company's plant in Palmdale, Calif., to catch a glimpse of the aircraft nicknamed "Lazarus"—the plane that died in a fire on the island of Guam only to be resurrected.

The dot grew larger and larger. Suddenly, the unmistakable bat-winged silhouette of the B-2 stealth bomber emerged. As it touched down for a landing, the crowd erupted in applause, hugs and tears.

"After all that time, it finally made it back home," Byrne said. "In some ways, we couldn't believe we pulled it off."

The four-year operation to rebuild the military's rarest—and most expensive at \$2.1 billion—aircraft involved hundreds of hard-to-find parts, thousands of labor hours, and 300 Air Force and Northrop workers. Many of them, mechanics such as Byrne, left their families in Palmdale and flew 6,000 miles to Guam to work seven days a week for months at a time to restore the stealth bomber.

They spent so much time working on the island, they started calling their temporary home "Guamdale."

■■■

The military is quick to say that the B-2 is unlike any other aircraft in the U.S. arsenal. Built to haul more than 20 tons of bombs, it has a wingspan nearly as long as a Boeing 747 jumbo jet yet flies virtually undetected by radar.

Because of its stealth characteristics, it is the first bomber to be sent into heavily defended enemy territory to clear the way for other fighters and bombers by knocking out anti-aircraft batteries and radar installations.

On the first night of the NATO operation in Libya in 2011, for instance, three B-2s flew from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, slipped into enemy territory and promptly wiped out 45 targets at an airfield before returning to the U.S.

The bombers are based at Whiteman but are often deployed overseas to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, a strategic base because of its location in the Asian Pacific region, namely its proximity to China and North Korea.

On Feb. 26, 2010, a B-2 attempted to take off from Guam for a routine training mission

## Repair operations

**1. May 2010** Mechanics fly to Guam to begin repairs



**2. August 2011** B-2 flown to Palmdale, Calif.; work completed by December 2013

when a fireball flashed from a left engine, sparking an onboard blaze that eviscerated the interior of the airplane.

No one aboard was hurt, but the heat was so intense that it melted and warped parts of the B-2's titanium and aluminum frame. The plane's wiring and hydraulic tubing turned into smoldering ash.

Though the damage was bad, the Air Force determined that the plane could be saved. That was good news. A B-2 was completely lost in 2008 after moisture built up in the plane's high-tech sensors and caused it to crash and burn. The pilots safely ejected.

The military said it couldn't afford to lose another of these aircraft. The repairs required more than 1,000 parts ranging in size from small clips to massive sections that support the structure of the aircraft. The project took nearly four years at a cost of more than \$105 million, which included a scheduled overhaul.

"With only 20 B-2s—as precious as those aircraft are—no one even questioned whether or not we'd make the investment," said Norton A. Schwartz, a retired four-star general who served as Air Force chief of staff at the time of the incident.

"When we found out the aircraft could be saved, civilian and military leadership agreed

without hesitation."

The latest accident was traced to the high-tech material that acts like a sponge to absorb radar waves as they strike the plane. Any gap on the plane's surface would reflect radar waves. To maintain the plane's stealth characteristics, radar-absorbing materials are meticulously applied to gaps, including to the areas around the engine exhaust and inside the tailpipe bay.

The 2010 bomber fire started after some of that material broke down, soaked up oil and ignited when one of the B-2's four engines fired up, according to Air Force investigation documents that were released after a request from the Los Angeles Times.

Once the Air Force decided to rebuild the plane on Guam, getting Northrop's team on the ground was the first order of business. It summoned the expert mechanics, engineers and other technicians from the company that know the bomber best.

The B-2 bombers were built at Northrop's 45-acre complex in Palmdale behind razor-wire fences under tight security. The first B-2 rolled off the assembly line in 1988; the last in 1997. Every seven years, the planes fly into the facility for a massive overhaul.

A few weeks after the fire, Byrne's boss called a meeting around a toolbox in Palmdale

to brief the crew on the accident. Byrne, 29, was told he'd be part of the first group going to Guam.

"I was amped to go," he said. "I had no idea where Guam was. I had to look it up on a map and saw this tiny dot in the middle of the Pacific."

In May 2010, Byrne and five other mechanics flew to the island to assess the aircraft, which was sitting in a hangar. There appeared to be very little damage to the B-2's sleek dark-gray surface.

But then the workers popped open the plane's 100-plus access panels. "The extent of the damage was surprising," said David G. Mazur, Northrop's vice president of long-range strike operations. "It took my breath away. Hundreds of parts would have to be replaced."

■■■

The Air Force has been maligned for decades over the costs and the extensive maintenance the B-2 requires. Last year alone, the Air Force spent more than \$1.2 billion upgrading, maintaining and overhauling the fleet.

For each hour a B-2 was in the air, it spent 47 hours on the ground undergoing maintenance. A B-2 mechanic has 750 technical manuals to reference to fix the plane.

On Guam, Northrop determined it would do the repair

in two phases. First, the crew would perform the mechanical repairs—estimated at \$67.9 million—that would enable the B-2 to fly to Palmdale. Once there, the aircraft would undergo a complete restoration at a cost of about \$37.2 million.

Technicians started the first phase by ripping out the aircraft's subsystems, wire harnesses, hydraulic lines and damaged structures from the engine bay.

Tom McElhaney, a 28-year-old mechanic from the Palmdale plant, said he was thrilled to be part of the team. But he faced a major problem: He couldn't take all his tools. The team brought high-precision drill bits from Palmdale, but the volume of drilling work required was higher than they had anticipated.

As a result, the bits he used to bore into the structure kept going dull. "We'd keep running back and forth to Home Depot," he said.

Rebuilding the bomber depended on parts that were difficult to find; some components were discovered on shelves at air bases in the U.S.

Parts that were no longer made were expensive to remake based on blueprints that were drawn when mechanics such as Byrne and McElhaney were in grade school.

All the parts were flown to the island on a specially chartered

Air Force C-17 cargo plane.

For a more than a year, Byrne and McElhaney reinstalled equipment in the aircraft. They'd work for two months straight, living in hotels, and head back to Palmdale for 10 days before returning.

"All the days blended together," Byrne said. "We joked every day was Monday, the 1st."

The Northrop team worked and traveled in secret. Their families knew where they were, as did co-workers.

But few others were aware of the restoration mission. In fact, the military did not publicly release an accident report and initially downplayed the severity of the damage to the B-2.

The Air Force acknowledged it could have taken a more "proactive approach" in disclosing the extent of the repairs. But Capt. Karen Mock, an Air Force spokeswoman, said the military didn't do more because no one sought additional details after the first report of the fire.

After 15 months, Northrop workers were eager to see the B-2 take to the sky once again.

"We were all working hard fixing any little issues that came up during the run and things were progressing very quickly," McElhaney said. "This was actually my first time participating in engine runs and I remember how exciting it was to learn all the new tasks and processes."

All that attention to detail paid off. The plane, formally dubbed Spirit of Washington, started right up on the first attempt.

Northrop spent the next three months making adjustments to get the B-2 into flying shape. For the flight to Palmdale, the Air Force established strict controls on weight, altitude and speed to lessen stress on the airframe.

In-flight refueling was used so the B-2 wouldn't have to take on the weight of 50 tons of fuel. A support aircraft followed the B-2 to monitor the 13-hour flight—and coordinate with air traffic control because the aircraft doesn't readily pop up on radar screens.

McElhaney was in Guam when the bomber took off. "Seeing it leave the island was emotional. It brought a tear to your eye to see it disappear over the horizon."

Once the B-2 was in Palmdale, workers stripped off the plane's paint, panels, nuts and bolts, right down to the frame, before rebuilding it with new parts and equipment.

The aircraft was fully restored in December.

When the B-2 left Palmdale to fly home to Whiteman Air Force Base, Byrne and McElhaney were in Palmdale to take in the moment.

"Every plane has its own nickname," Byrne said. "We said to one another, 'If we can do this, it'll be like the story of Lazarus.'"



# Campus Life

## For kids of bankrupt Detroit, challenges abound

By **DAVID CRARY**  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**DETROIT (AP)**—In a city scarred by broken promises, the Moore brothers, James and Robert, and fellow student Chelsea Inyard are among the lucky ones. The teenagers attend one of Detroit's most promising new public schools.

Set in the medical district of the city's Midtown neighborhood, Dr. Benjamin Carson High School of Science and Medicine, just three years old, offers a rigorous curriculum, gung-ho teachers and gleaming facilities. One recent day, anatomy students studied the Latin terms for parts of the eye; a literature class discussed the psychology of love.

Yet, while the students welcome the opportunities, the challenges of just getting to and from school are a daily reminder that theirs is a city in the throes of the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, where life places special stresses on young people.

Teachers and parents are fighting to do right by the children, and many believe Detroit is finally on the rise after hitting bottom. Yet they worry about the toll of growing up amid danger, dysfunction and the blight epitomized by tens of thousands of abandoned homes.

"This is what we're ingraining into kids' psyches—this emptiness, the lack of safety," said Tonya Allen, CEO of the Skillman Foundation, which backs many new, child-oriented initiatives. "They're going into school with a level of fear that something bad is going to happen."

The landscape includes 88 vacant school buildings that are up for sale—some of the 200 schools closed in recent years due to depopulation. At many schools still open, frequent power outages have created a literal gloom.

High levels of gang violence and premature births combine to make the youth mortality rate the worst of any major U.S. city, according to a recent analysis by the Detroit News.

Even the city's 300 parks—traditionally a haven for children to play—have mostly become unusable, overgrown wastelands.

"Detroit is a very difficult place to be a child," said Dan Varner, CEO of an education watchdog group called Excellent Schools Detroit.

Often it's the grownups rather than kids who worry out loud about Detroit's woes as formative influences. Many young Detroiters speak hopefully of the future, though the practical obstacles to getting there come up in their conversation, too.

Take, for instance, the Moore brothers, who live on Detroit's northern boundary, about 10 miles from Ben Car-



In this Feb. 27, 2014 photo, student Jalen Pickett, talks during a class that teaches anger management and conflict resolution skills at Cody High School in Detroit.

son. Like many high school students, they rely for transport on the city's crime-ridden, inefficient bus system.

"Some days, I don't get home until 9 p.m.," said Robert, a 16-year-old junior aspiring to a military career. He recounted the all-too-common phenomenon of overcrowded buses passing without stopping.

James, who's 15, says his youth-league football team was sometimes unable to play because field conditions were so bad—"tall grass, nasty bleachers, trash everywhere."

Like most schools in Detroit, Ben Carson has an overwhelmingly African-American student body. More than 80 percent come from low-income families—not surprising in a city where the child poverty rate of 57 percent is triple the national figure.

"They need our arms wrapped around them," said the principal, Brenda Belcher. "It's important to create a culture and climate to support them."

Sitting patiently in the school's reception area on a recent day was Michael Inyard, whose daughter, Chelsea, is a 10th grader. Unable to drive because his license is suspended, Inyard rides with her on the bus to and from school.

It's a brutal schedule, given that he works overnight at a Chrysler plant, but he considers the crowded buses too dangerous for Chelsea to ride alone.

"I'd be a bundle of nerves any other way, wondering what's going on with her," the father said.

Speaking generally about Detroit's upcoming generation, he added, "These kids have a rough time. They've got to be on the alert for whatever, whenever."

■ ■ ■

Ten miles west of Ben Carson, at one of Detroit's less glamorous high schools, 17-year-old junior Jalen Pickett was indeed on the alert—a police officer was about to shove him dur-

ing a workshop aimed in part at teaching anger management and conflict resolution skills to a dozen often-in-trouble students.

"How would you react to that?" Officer Melvin Chuneu asked the group after using Jalen as his foil.

The setting was a disused classroom on the third floor of Cody High School. The 60-year-old building, in a neighborhood dotted with abandoned brick homes, has deteriorated enough to be the target of a volunteer face-lift effort this summer.

Jalen, now a diligent student with aspirations to be a defense lawyer, had an inauspicious start to high school.

"I got into a fight my first day," he said. "I was kicked out a lot, didn't get along with any of my teachers. I cursed on them ... I was horrible."

His penchant for fighting earned him a spot in the new Police Department program - the Children in Trauma Intervention Camp. In essence, it offers the students an alternative to expulsion in the form of training and counseling from police officers and other adult mentors.

"Everybody knows you're in here because sometimes you made bad decisions," said the program's leader, Officer Monica Evans, whose exhortations included biblical references and raw street language.

Tackling the concept of self-reflection, Evans asked the students to write about what limits them.

"I have to be focused and confident that nothing can stop me from getting out of the 'hood,'" said one boy's statement, read aloud by Evans.

The program has clearly motivated Jalen Pickett. He now opts to wear a necktie each day despite teasing from his friends and is studying hard with hopes of going to an out-of-state university.

Childhood was difficult.

Jalen said he was neglected by both parents and now lives with a cousin, though he's determined to help out his mother financially.

"I fought - but that's like every boy," he said. "I have a clean record, I've never been locked up ... I never give up hope."

John Matthews, Jalen's principal, empathizes with his students, even when some cause him headaches.

"I grew up in Detroit. We always felt life was going to get better," Matthews said. "These young people don't see the future as bright."

Matthews told of asking one student to visualize himself at age 35 - and of getting a sobering response. "He said he'd either be dead, in jail or a drug addict by then."

Matthews is proud of his school's policy of minimizing expulsions. "If I suspend a kid, I've eliminated a problem in my building, but created a problem somewhere else," he said.

Unlike the city's elite high schools, the three separate academies at Cody don't have selective admissions, and the result, Matthews said, "is a certain feeling of inferiority."

"But I tell our students that they have more grit," he said. "We want them to be proud of what they've overcome."

■ ■ ■

Detroit was a city of 1.8 million residents in the 1950s; today, it has about 700,000. The exodus has included many families seeking improved education. Since 2002, Detroit Public Schools enrollment has declined from 164,496 to about 49,500 in 97 schools now.

Meanwhile, the separate charter school sector has exploded. According to Excellent Schools Detroit, the city now has 116 charter schools serving 45 percent of K-12 students. That's about the same share as

DPS, which once served more than 80 percent of all students, and it's one of the highest market shares for charter schools in any U.S. city.

Some of the charter schools and some DPS schools are top-notch, said Dan Varner of Excellent Schools Detroit, but overall he assessed educational quality in both sectors as "very poor."

Budget-wise, Detroit's bankruptcy doesn't directly affect the public school system, a separate entity with its own taxing authority, revenues and governance. Nonetheless, DPS' deficit is \$94 million, and is projected to reach \$120 million later this year.

Detroit's aging electrical system also has been troublesome. DPS schools have suffered at least 160 power outages this year, largely due to equipment failures and theft of copper wiring.

Then there's the academic scorecard. While DPS schools have improved their performance on state-run standardized tests, their showing on the National Assessment of Educational Progress remains abysmal.

In 2013, DPS schools ranked the worst among 21 major cities in the performance of 4th and 8th graders on math and reading tests. Just 4 percent of Detroit 4th graders and 3 percent of 8th graders were proficient in math, compared with 33 percent and 27 percent, respectively, in the average large city.

Nonetheless, DPS officials say the district is on the upswing. Current enrollment is little changed from the fall of 2012 - notable given annual enrollment losses of more than 10 percent over much of the past decade.

"We used to plan to fail—now our whole mindset is around planning to win," said DPS communications chief Michelle Zdrodowski.

Last year, the district launched an intensive marketing campaign to bolster enrollment. It featured door-to-door visits by principals, teachers and parents that Zdrodowski likened to a political campaign, and a detailed survey sent out to 30,000 families.

Parents are being courted with thank-you phone calls from teachers, and are offered 7-days-a-week services—including financial literacy training and help from state social workers—at certain schools doubling as community resource centers.

Since there are far more classroom seats than school-age children these days, individual schools have been competing fiercely to attract students.

"Nobody is managing the market," said Sharlonda Buckman, CEO of the Detroit Parent Network, the city's largest parent organization. "You've got every Tom, Dick and Harry coming in and trying to snatch

kids from other schools."

For parents, the multiplicity of options and the hard-sell tactics can seem overwhelming.

"How do I make the best choice for my child? What parent can do all this research?" wondered Arlyssa Heard, a 43-year-old single mom of two sons. "At the beginning of the year, everyone puts on a good show about how wonderful the curriculum is ... It's not until the end of the year, you realize it's more of the same."

She was among a group of parent network members who gathered recently to discuss school developments.

Her older son, 18, needed remedial courses at the start of community college. Her 8-year-old son, a third grader at DPS's Paul Robeson-Malcolm X Academy, has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and has struggled in a class with nearly 40 students, she said.

"I don't want my son to be experimented on," she said. "The clock is ticking. I don't want—when he's 16—to discover he's not prepared."

She and other parents complained that the programming had become overly tilted toward test preparation.

"It doesn't seem like school is fun anymore," Heard said.

And so she and others saw a ray of hope in some recent news: After years without comprehensive sports and arts/music programs, those are now being restored at all DPS elementary and middle schools, thanks in part to foundation grants.

Administrators are looking to do more. For instance, principal Josette Buendia at Bennett Elementary, who couples fun, such as a weekly "Popcorn Friday," with academic innovations, including one-on-one tutoring for her 4th and 5th graders via Skype with student volunteers at a suburban high school.

And in another example of public-private engagement, volunteers join in spot inspections of schools - both public and charter—as part of an Excellent Schools Detroit initiative. The inspection teams file reports that contribute—along with academic data—to the grades that the initiative gives schools as a tool for parents to make enrollment decisions.

On one recent school day, seven volunteers in "School Reviewer" sweatshirts roamed at will through University Prep Science and Math Elementary School, the K-5 component of a new K-12 charter school.

Team members looked in on classrooms, checked drinking fountains, critiqued hallway art displays, and tried the doors of mechanical storage closets to see if they were properly locked.

See **KIDS** on Next Page



## Life &amp; Style

## Jimmy Fallon off to fast start on 'Tonight'

NEW YORK (AP)—One month in, NBC's generational trade of Jay Leno for Jimmy Fallon at the "Tonight" show is succeeding beyond the hopes of executives who engineered it.

Fallon's fast start is clear in television ratings and even more stark in social media metrics. While too early to declare a new king of late-night TV, the transition is a marked change from how badly NBC fumbled the short-lived switch from Leno to Conan O'Brien in 2009.

"As a guy who's been doing this for 36 years, I don't allow myself to think about this level of success," said Ted Harbert, NBC broadcasting chairman. NBC had hoped for an increase in young viewers and steered itself to lose some of Leno's older fans, but Fallon's reception was a surprise.

When Fallon premiered on "Tonight" during the Olympics, the franchise hit numbers unseen since Johnny Carson's last week in 1992. Things have settled down but Fallon is still comfortably on top. During the week of March 10-14, Fallon averaged 4.26 million viewers to Jimmy Kimmel's 2.83 million on ABC and David Letterman's 2.78 million on CBS, the Nielsen company said. Fallon has consistently topped the 4.1 million viewers that Leno averaged this season before leaving.

Fallon's lead over his rivals is more pronounced among viewers aged 18-to-49, the demographic NBC bases its advertising sales upon.

Fallon and NBC embrace the way many early-to-bed consumers experience late-night television these days: by watching clips of a show's best moments online. The YouTube clip of Fal-

lon and Will Smith acting out the evolution of hip-hop dancing has been seen more than 12.8 million times. Fallon's lip-sync duel with Paul Rudd on songs by Tina Turner, Foreigner and Queen has nearly 9 million views.

Other popular clips show Fallon, singer Idina Menzel and the Roots performing "Let it Go" with children's instruments and the sliced-and-diced version of newsmen Brian Williams and Lester Holt on "Rapper's Delight."

Each segment is funny, good-natured and utterly impossible to imagine Fallon's old-school predecessor doing.

"What I notice in people's reactions is not just that they like the show and think that it's funny, but they like the feel-good spirit," Harbert said. "There's a total absence of snarkiness, of cynicism. It's just there to make you feel good before you go to sleep."

The anti-show biz style pioneered by Letterman isn't dead, said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. But "it may have run its course to some extent," he said, and Fallon's sincerity dilutes the pure snark of Letterman and O'Brien.

"Fallon has been able to change the equation," he said. He's made his mark despite a more crowded competitive landscape, with O'Brien, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Chelsea Handler and Arsenio Hall also mining late-night laughs.

During his first month, Fal-



In this image released by NBC, Will Smith, left, and host Jimmy Fallon act out the evolution of hip-hop dancing on the premiere of "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," in New York.

lon generated more than 120 million YouTube views, Twitter mentions and Facebook posts, the research firm RelishMIX said. That's more than double Kimmel, who had 57 million in the same social media metric. Letterman had 2.3 million.

"That lopsidedness is a huge wake-up call to writers, producers of late-night, network marketing departments and other series in all genres that they must 'feed the beast' or die,"

said Marc Karzen, RelishMIX spokesman.

Friday night's routine with Kevin Bacon revisiting some "Footloose" dance moves quickly caught fire online, and video highlights had been watched 7.3 million times as of early Monday, he said.

Aggressive online exposure was a key part of NBC's launch strategy, which included timing Fallon's takeover to coincide with heavy viewer interest in

the Winter Olympics, Harbert said. The next step is to find ways to make more money off all that online interest, he said.

Fallon's rivals haven't backed down from the competition. Kimmel got attention during the Winter Olympics for filming a stunt that jokingly suggested a wolf was roaming the halls of a dorm for athletes. With their youthful appeal (Fallon is 39, Kimmel 46), the two men seem primed for a bicoastal rivalry.

Letterman, during an appearance in January at Howard Stern's birthday bash, said Leno's departure wouldn't affect how long he wanted to keep working.

"I would do it forever if it were up to me," he said, before adding a wry aside: "Sometimes, it isn't up to me."

Judging by one of television's most prominent measuring sticks for likability, Fallon's success shouldn't be a surprise. He has a "Q" score of 19 among viewers aged 18 to 34—which means 19 percent of people familiar with him consider Fallon one of their favorite personalities, said the company Marketing Evaluations Inc., which polled consumers both before and after the "Tonight" takeover. Kimmel's score was 16 and Letterman's 11, the company said (an average celebrity "Q" score is 17).

Among young men, Fallon's score shoots up to 24, said company spokesman Henry Schafer. More people that age know who Fallon is than know Letterman, he said.

For older viewers, the graciousness of Leno, 63, during the transition was crucial, Harbert said. "He said to the country, 'It's OK to watch Jimmy Fallon,'" he said. "I think if he hadn't, we wouldn't have been in this position."

## KIDS

From Page 19

The inspection leader, Bernita Bradley, urged her team to take notes: "What do you see, what do you hear, what do you smell?"

■ ■ ■

Whatever happens inside Detroit's schools, the environment outside can be menacing for kids.

The city-backed Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative recently surveyed 1,300 high school students. Asked if a family member had been shot, murdered or disabled as a result of violence in the past 12 months, 87 percent answered yes.

"Far too many children walk to and from school in fear, lack trust in those who took the oath to protect and serve, and consider retaliation to be a means to an end," said the initiative's director, Annie Ellington.

In response to such challenges, residents have formed volunteer patrols to enhance the safety of students between school and home. DPS officials say these efforts have contributed to a drop in crime on school property.

Indeed, as municipal services for families and children withered, a host of community associations, volunteer groups and nonprofits have sought to fill the void. Their leaders and members embrace upbeat words like

"resilience" and "tenacity."

"We work with people every day who haven't given up, who love kids, who are committed to making things better," said Sharnita Johnson, a Detroit native who helps oversee the Kellogg Foundation's grants to neighborhood and youth programs in the city.

"Detroiters are really clear that they can't be passive residents anymore," she said. "The cavalry is not coming in to help."

So it is that neighborhood task forces have formed to cut the grass and do cleanup work at parks left untended due to city budget cuts.

The new Detroit mayor, Mike Duggan, also pledged more city help. In his recent state of the city speech, Duggan said Detroit's parks were "an embarrassment"—with only 25 of the 300 parks in well-maintained condition last summer. He vowed to have 150 parks in good shape next summer, and urged churches to launch an "adopt-a-park" program that might allow 50 more to be revived.

The mayor also plans to work with the medical community on reducing the high rate of premature births and to lobby in tandem with Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to boost funding for pre-K education.

In a move that could aid commuting high school students,

he's also promised to expand the bus fleet and fit existing buses with security cameras.

Others are sharpening the focus on helping Detroit's children—including thriving, privately run organizations providing an array of extra-curricular options.

The Detroit Children's Choir, which serves about 200 young people, says its funding is up by \$30,000 from last year. The YMCA is working to cut down on the city's high teen birth rate with an extensive wait-til-you're-older sex education program. Detroit PAL—the police athletic league—weathered a downturn a few years ago and now says it's flourishing with about 1,500 adult volunteers coaching 11,000 boys and girls in 11 different sports programs.

There's also the acclaimed Mosaic Youth Theater, founded in 1992, which has sent ensembles of young singers and actors on overseas tours and provided a warm-up act in 2011 for a Detroit visit by President Barack Obama.

Roughly 165 young people engage in Mosaic's main programs each year—most from low- and moderate-income Detroit families. Founder Rick Sperling says about half are on full scholarships.

On one recent evening, young actors in wigs, gowns

and topcoats rehearsed a slapstick adaptation of Voltaire's "Candide." In a larger auditorium, several dozen poised singers and dancers practiced for the troupe's annual concert in May.

One of the dancers, 15-year-old Jamilah Minter, attends Detroit School of Arts—one of DPS's showcase schools—and aspires to a career either in entertainment or astronomy. She's well aware of Detroit's problems, but determined not to get sidetracked.

"I feel a little sad about it—I want to help," she said. "But what can one person do?"

Another performer, 10th grader Javon Jones, hopes to study dance at the Juilliard School in New York City, but long-term would like to return to a revitalized Detroit.

"There's a lot of talent here that can bloom, but not a lot of opportunities to express it," Javon said. "Why can't we do it here, in the place we love?"

That was also the sentiment of Jalen Pickett, summing up his hopes and expectations after his session with Officer Evans' tough-love intervention team at Cody High.

"If Detroit can change, it's up to the youth to do it," Jalen said. "I feel Detroit can come back. And if I do go away to college, I plan on coming back here and giving back to Detroit."

## Ex-TV Judge Joe Brown arrested in Tennessee

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The star of the television show "Judge Joe Brown" has been arrested and charged with five counts of contempt of court in Tennessee, court officials in Memphis said Monday.

Shelby County Juvenile Court officials said the 66-year-old Brown was sentenced to five days in jail after causing an outburst Monday in a child support hearing. Brown is running in the Democratic primary for Shelby County district attorney general.

Magistrate Judge Harold "Hal" Horne charged the former TV judge with contempt of court, said Dan Michael, chief magistrate judge of the Shelby County Juvenile Court.

"He darn near caused a riot in the courtroom, he had people so inflamed," Michael said of the former TV judge.

Brown could not be reached for comment. Neither jail officials nor juvenile court officials knew whether he had retained a lawyer. WREG-TV was reporting that Brown had been released from jail.

The former TV judge was representing a woman who had been brought in on a warrant in a child support case, Michael said. Brown, he said, was yelling and repeatedly challenging Horne's authority and even addressing his comments to a crowd of people inside the courtroom.

Brown's nationally syndicated TV show was canceled last year.



# Aniston says she won't let tabloids steal her joy

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Despite spending nearly half her life under the glare of cameras, Jennifer Aniston admits she's still not used to the baggage that comes with it, from paparazzi to the tabloid headlines.

"All that stuff, it's toxic," says the actress. "It never gets un-jarring, but you do have to not let it imprison you, which is possible, too."

To that end, she has her way of insulating herself—sticking tight to a close group of friends and not believing the hype that envelops her.

"There's times when you see people climbing and getting success and you start to see, oh, they're starting to really change. So I always just make the effort to be as humble and grateful as possible," she said.

She certainly seemed that way when she spoke to The Associated Press last week. Despite the swanky setting—a hotel presidential suite—the actress sat on the floor eating a celery stick dipped in ranch dressing as she talked about her latest project, an online digital short she narrated for Aveeno, the natural skin-care brand she represents.

Looking chic but laid back in a ponytail, dark-rimmed glasses and a slim black blazer, Aniston chatted about challenging herself in her career, a possible sequel to last year's "We're the Millers," her fiancé, Justin Theroux, and turning 45.

**AP: You're a beauty pitch-woman. What's the weirdest beauty regimen you've tried?**

**Aniston:** I don't go out too crazy. You mean like did I ever put leeches on my face? ... The closest I'll ever go is a derma-roller. Google it—it's great. It's like a little wheel that has little pins, like acupuncture needles in a way, and you roll it and it stimulates your collagen and it also allows for your products to seep into your skin.

**AP: You're doing a sequel to "Horrible Bosses." Any other**



In this April 16, 2013 file photo, Jennifer Aniston arrives at the world premiere of "Call Me Crazy: A Five Film" at the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles.

**characters from your past you'd like to revisit?**

**Aniston:** I think Rose and the Millers would be fun, to kind of see where that's going to go, and I know we're probably going to do another one of those.

**AP: You recently celebrated your 45th birthday. Do you pause to reflect on such milestones?**

**Aniston:** I guess it is a milestone. I really try not to focus on it too much, to be honest. Society focuses on it way more than we need to. I think it's always important to reflect anyway, no matter what age you're approaching or what milestone is in front of you. Reflection should be almost a daily thing if possible. Because I was never a 'where do you see yourself in five years' person. I had no idea, and I didn't have a checklist, which really creates a lot less stress in your life.

**AP: Though you may not have a checklist, are there other things you want to achieve in Hollywood?**

**Aniston:** I just want to keep

trying to surprise myself and I want to keep challenging myself and have the courage to really do that, in spite of possible failure.

**AP: Is that harder or easier when you're in the spotlight?**

**Aniston:** You just have to work really hard to tune out the noise and the static. Because it gets louder, and people really have an opinion, and you don't want to shy away from taking chances for fear of what people will say, or living in the wreckage of the future (of) what may be if I do this.

**AP: You're producing and starring in the upcoming drama "Cake." How interested are you in more work behind the camera?**

**Aniston:** It's almost more interesting. I think there's something so wonderful about being part of the process from the seed of the idea to seeing it come to life on a screen. And to have a hand in that creatively, not just showing up as an actor for hire.

**AP: Will you write and direct?**

**Aniston:** I can't write. I would love to. I don't really have an interest in it, to be honest. I'll leave that to my fiancé.

**AP: At this point, do you just laugh off all the speculation about your wedding and your future?**

**Aniston:** It's on a level that I don't even understand. It's weird. I think because we are so normal. We're very non-fabulous in any way. They try to create all sorts of narratives to go with a very normal, wonderful life that's just two people loving each other and living life and working and doing the best they can.

**AP: Does it detract from that joy at all?**

**Aniston:** Oh, God no. If it did, I would be dead.

## Rihanna to be honored with CFDA Fashion Icon award

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Rihanna earned an icon award at the American Music Awards last year. Now she's receiving a similar honor from the fashion world.

The Council of Fashion Designers of America, Inc., announced Monday that the 26-year-old pop star will receive the CFDA Fashion Icon Award on June 2 in New York City.

The award is given to one whose style has made a tremendous impact on pop culture around the world. Past recipients include Lady Gaga, Iman, Kate Moss and Nicole Kidman.

The 2014 CFDA Fashion Awards will be held at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall.

Rihanna will launch a three-date co-headlining tour with Eminem on Aug. 8 in Los Angeles. The artists have collaborated on the No. 1 hits "The Monster" and "Love the Way You Lie."



This March 5, 2014 file photo shows singer Rihanna arriving at Miu Miu's ready to wear fall/winter 2014-2015 fashion collection presented in Paris.

# Husband can't erase wife's journal writing about affair

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married almost 20 years. Eight years ago my wife began an emotional affair with a co-worker. It lasted a year, until he left the company. Although they never had sex, they did have some physical contact that most people would consider inappropriate, and my wife considered ending our marriage because of the feelings she had for him. She now says the episode was a huge mistake and she loves me more than ever.

The problem is, she wrote many entries about him in a journal. I know she kept writing about him several years after they lost contact, including saying that she loved him more than a year after he'd left.

I want my wife to remove the portions of the journal pertaining to this guy. She doesn't want to. I'm still hurting from this and am considering counseling, but for now, what do you think? Should she get rid of the journal?

CONSIDERING COUNSELING

**DEAR CONSIDERING COUNSELING:** Because you are still hurting seven years after the fact, stop "considering" counseling and get it NOW.

If your wife is a serious journal writer—and many people are—that she would want her writings to remain intact in spite of the fact they reflect her emotional affair is not unusual. If that's the case, instead of insisting she edit or destroy her journal, my advice is to stop reading it.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 47-year-old man who was single until seven years ago. Then I met "Maggie," the most wonderful woman I had ever known. She wasn't the hotsy-totsy one-nighter type I was used to. She was a real woman who fulfilled everything I had ever dreamed of (including bringing a wonderful 4-year-old little girl into my life). The biological father is out of the picture.

Maggie had wrestled with some health issues—nothing serious until last April, when she had surgery. Complications set in, and I lost the only person who ever mattered, aside from our little girl.

My question is, since we were never married, how do I refer to Maggie when relating what happened? I am in the process of adopting her daughter and explanations to strangers are tough. ("Wow, you're taking on a child when you don't HAVE to?") How do I respond to these remarks? I know this is a multi-part question, but I have so many unanswered questions lately, I figured I'd ask you for an opinion.

GRIEVING IN MISSOURI

**DEAR GRIEVING:** Although you and Maggie weren't legally married, you were a couple for some time. I'm very sorry for your loss. It would be accurate to refer to her as your late significant other, your partner or long-time girlfriend.

I would like to compliment you for stepping up to care for the girl when her biological father did not. And I do have suggestions for how to respond to anyone insensitive enough to ask why you would "take on" a child you didn't "have to."

The first would be to ignore the question. The second would be to avoid such a person in the future, and the third would be to reply, "I love her like a daughter, want to make sure she's secure and provided for, and THAT'S why I'm doing it."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# David Cassidy sentenced to rehab in DUI case

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A judge has sentenced 1970s teen heartthrob David Cassidy to three months in rehab and five years of probation in a drunken driving case.

Cassidy's attorney, Steven Graff Levine, entered an open plea to a Los Angeles judge Monday, admitting that he was driving under the influence when he was arrested in January after making an illegal turn.

Levine says Cassidy has been in rehab and will remain for longer than his sentence requires. He says Cassidy is committed to his sobriety and wants to break the cycle that got him arrested for drunken driving twice in less than six months. A DUI case in New York was reduced from a felony to misdemeanor earlier this month.

Cassidy appeared on TV's "The Partridge Family."



This Aug. 8, 2009 file photo shows actor-singer David Cassidy, best known for his role as Keith Partridge on "The Partridge Family," arrives at the ABC Disney Summer press tour party in Pasadena, Calif.

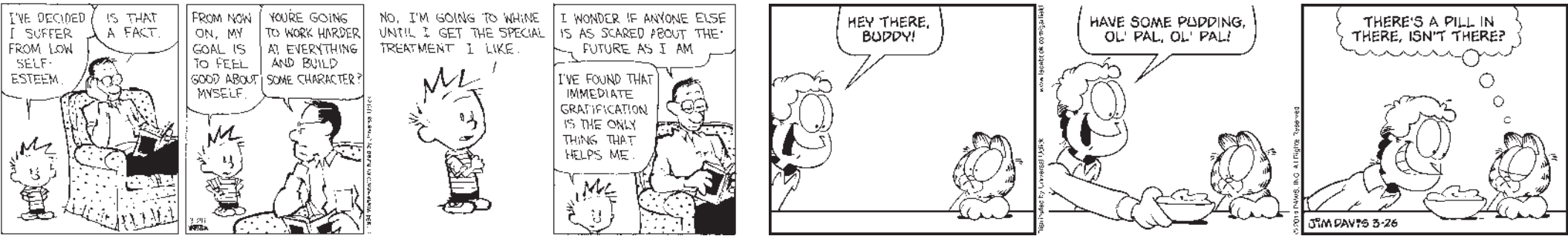


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

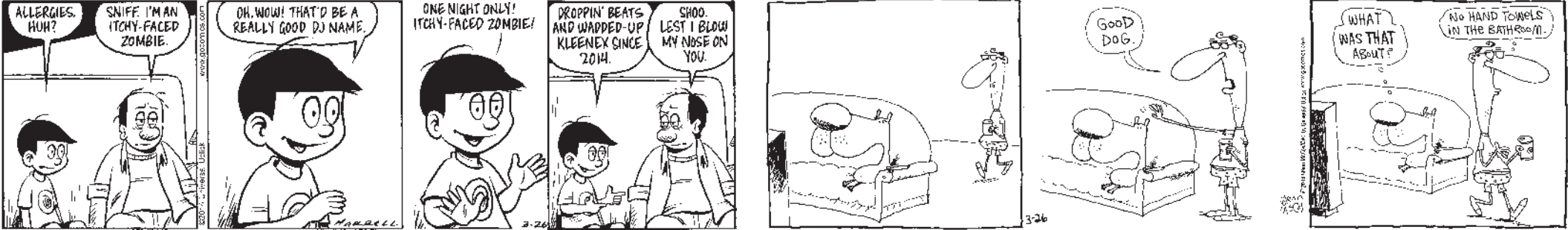
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

41 Small combo

5 Jewel

8 Tennis situation

12 Shake-speare's river

13 Michele of "Glee"

14 Get the lead out?

15 Region

17 "The Thin Man" Dog

18 Honor

19 Pollux's twin

21 Aries

22 "— real nowhere man"

23 Flop

26 — Moines

28 Jai alai basket

31 "Yeah, right!"

33 Abrade

35 Pack away

36 Founded (on)

38 Golfer Ernie

40 Moray or conger

**DOWN**

1 Dis-

2 Hertz

3 Expense

4 Sign up for

5 Scintilla

6 Common Mkt.

7 Corre-spond

8 Builds up

9 Aversion

10 Division word

11 Approach

16 Peruse

20 Old

23 Slight touch

24 "Charac-ters welcome"

25 Expanse

27 Take to court

29 Sock part

30 Piercing tool

32 Takes across

34 Flower

37 Conk out

39 Flavor enhancer

42 "Strange as it may seem ..."

44 John Paul II, born — Wojtyla

45 Unkempt one

46 Shetland, for one

48 Mexican entree

49 She loved Narcis-sus

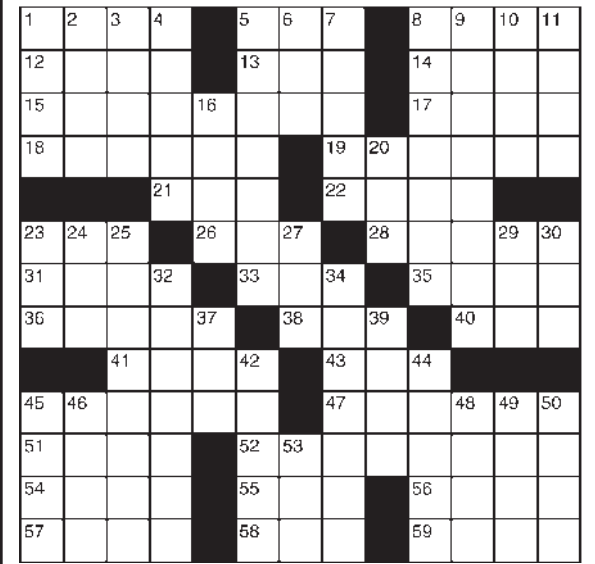
50 Put an end to

53 Debtor's letters

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

MAKE BAG RASP  
IDEA OWELCHO  
REPRISAL PREP  
ANT BOY CREME  
RIM MAE  
PRIED CONSOLE  
CAMP WOOLBAY  
STARDOM SNIDE  
OAK POT  
GABBY MIA GAS  
AREA REPROACH  
IINT AGF FIMO  
LATE WAR REED

Yesterday's answer 3-26



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Keira Knightley, 29; Kenny Chesney, 46; Martin Short, 64; Steven Tyler, 66.

**Happy Birthday:** Do your best to secure your future. Nurture your relationships and protect your position. Question alternatives offered, but don't be too quick to disregard an opportunity for the wrong reason. Go after your goals passionately and with the intent to excel, but be mindful of those you encounter along the way. Balance will be vital if you want to succeed. Your numbers are 7, 10, 19, 22, 31, 34, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Favors will be granted. Mingle and you will meet people who can help you advance. Take on a physical challenge and you will feel good about the way you look and feel. Children and elders will offer insight and honesty. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Broaden your knowledge and your connections. Take part in a function that will add to your experience and bring you in touch with people who are beneficial. Don't let love or an emotional situation stand in your way. \*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Get ready to make a move. Idle time will lead to confusion. Re-evaluate and take action. Love is on the rise, and the opportunity to see into someone's world or cultural background will help you make an important decision. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stand up for your beliefs. Make decisions based on your needs. Don't allow anyone to interfere or force you in a direction not suited to

your goals. Follow the path you feel most comfortable with and you will be successful. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Look, see and follow through. Your charismatic approach will win favors and bring you good fortune. Do whatever it takes to improve your quality of living and your relationship with someone you love. A change will motivate and inspire you. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get involved in projects and humanitarian causes you believe in. Your insight and tenacity will put you in a key position that will boost your confidence and help you gain respect from influential people. Press on and let your talents shine. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Network and let your social skills influence the caliber of person you attract. Collaborating with someone who has as much to bring to the table as you will result in a fruitful future. Love and romance are in the stars. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Listen carefully and head in the direction that makes the most sense. You can't please everyone, and in this case, suffering a loss to appease someone is foolish. Once you reach your destination, re-evaluate some of your relationships. \*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take action and follow through to honor a promise made. Someone may let you down, but that doesn't mean you should lower your standards or do the same thing. Show off what you have to offer and you will make gains. \*\*\*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Make sure you're stepping forward. Focus on finishing what you start and living up to your word. You'll be disappointed if you count on someone to come through for you. Do what needs doing and don't lose your resolve. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Show your enthusiasm and you will create a buzz. Showing interest in what others do will help you gain the support you need to follow through with your own plans. Love will bring about a change in the way you live. \*\*\*

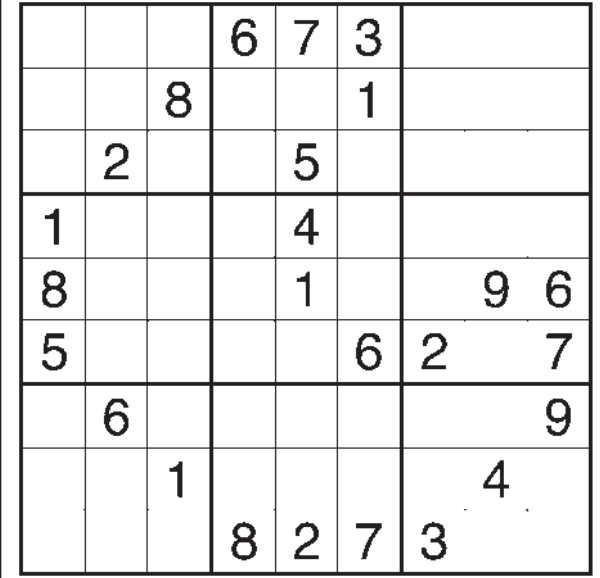
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** An offer that appears too good to be true will end up having its drawbacks if you don't make personal adjustments first. Look at the pros and cons before you implement a change that may leave you in a vulnerable position. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are steadfast, earnest and progressive. You are sensitive and just.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](http://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](http://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](http://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

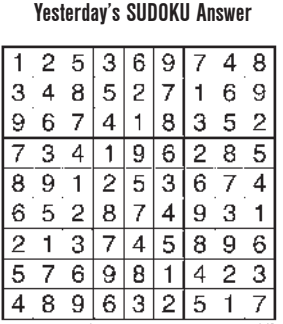
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/26 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★ 3-27

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**CURLING IRONS** Solution: 4 letters

E E R H S S S S S E L D R O C T  
L L N O T T A D N A W A V E I  
B V B O T O A L L A T E M R T  
A O O A C P O N O R I P E A A  
E D U L R U A M D N E L H M N  
G N J N T U R D S R E G O I I  
N E I U C A D L A A E N C U  
A R P H S E G T S M U I D E M  
H I L A S T U E U N D P L U G  
C N O H R N L W N L O P B L  
R G O R E S O I A L O O C A E  
E L S S O V N R A R W L R R V  
T E E R A D B M O E A G F R A  
N T W I S T S L R S E I R E R  
I S W I V E L S P I R A L L T

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Adaptor, Adjust, Barrel, Bounce, Brand, Ceramic, Clasp, Cone, Cordless, Curly, Durable, Hold, Interchangeable, Iron, Large, Looping, Loose, Medium, Metal, Plug, Power, Release, Reset, Ringlets, Rods, Roll, Salon, Sensor, Shape, Shine, Small, Smooth, Spiral, Stand, Swivel, Teflon, Temperature, Titanium, Travel, Twists, Unwind, Voltage, Volume, Wand, Wave  
Yesterday's Answer: Our Friend  
Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universalluclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)







# Spurs win 14th straight, 76ers' skid now at 25



**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs knew the Philadelphia 76ers were coming in on a long losing streak.

They had no intentions of taking it easy on them.

Austin Daye had 22 points and Tim Duncan added 19 as the Spurs earned their 14th straight win with a 113-91 victory Monday night that sent the 76ers to their 25th consecutive loss.

Philadelphia will face Houston on Thursday with the dubious distinction of being a loss shy of tying the NBA record for consecutive losses set by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2010-11. Before the game, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he felt terrible for former assistant Brett Brown, now the 76ers' coach. But he added that he did not feel sorry for "one of my best friends," because pity would upset his former protégé.

"Obviously, it's a rough season for them," Duncan said. "It's a rebuilding season for them. (Brown) knows that, they know that. They have a lot of young guys. He's just trying to get the system in place that has them playing the way he wants them playing. It's a process. He knows that."

Kawhi Leonard and Patty Mills scored 15 points each and Cory Joseph added 12 for San Antonio, which maintained the league's best record at 54-16. The Spurs did not play starters Tony Parker, Tiago Splitter and Danny Green, but did not need them against the lowly 76ers.

Thaddeus Young and Michael Carter-Williams each scored 19 points, Byron Mullens added 15 and Elliot Williams had 14 for Philadelphia (15-56).

Daye, who was averaging 2.3 minutes while playing in only four games since being acquired from Toronto on Feb. 20, finished 6-for-10 on 3-pointers and had six rebounds in 29 minutes. It was familiar to Brown, who served as an assistant under Popovich for seven seasons.

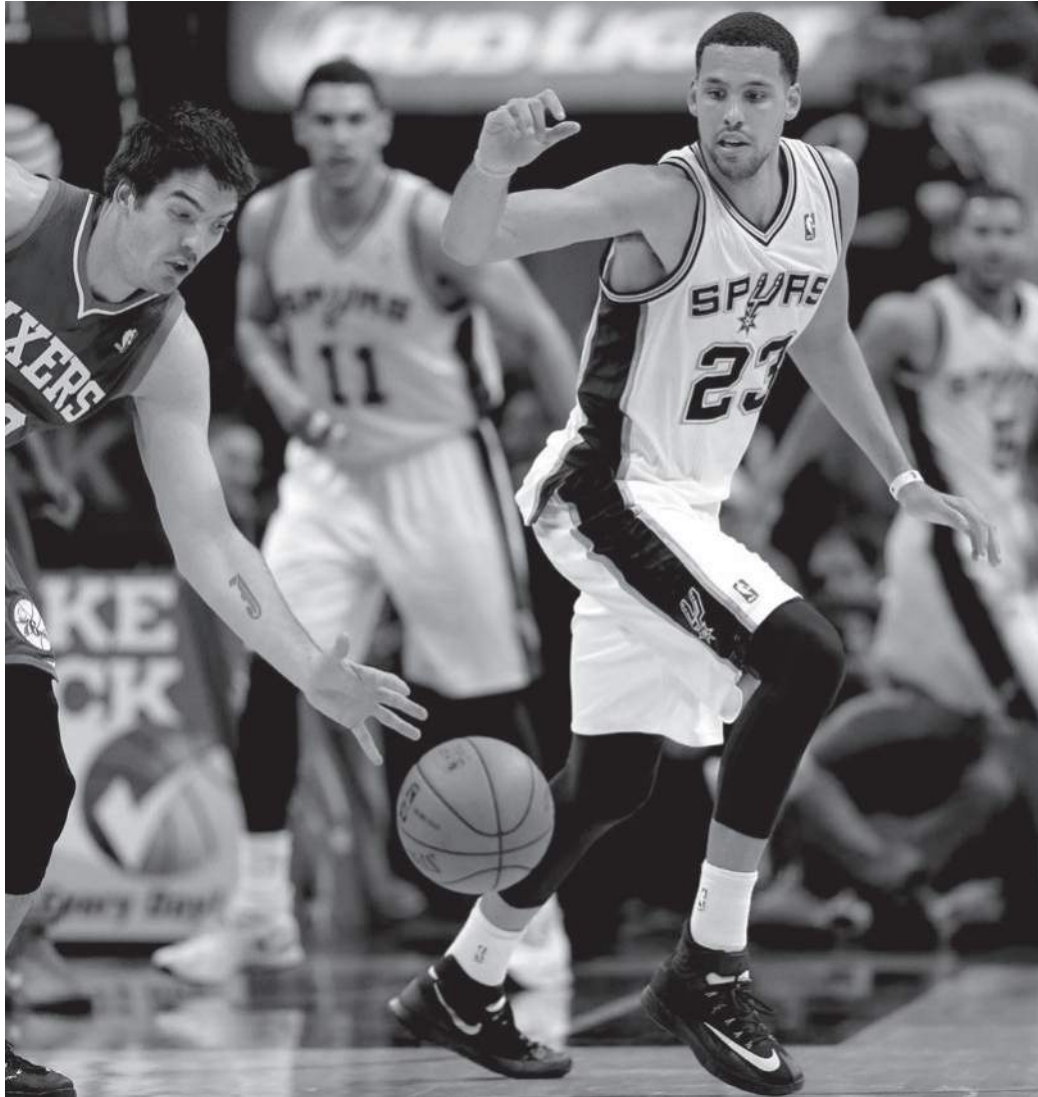
"He's lucky," Brown said, "and I've seen this over so many years—people can come into that system and shine. This system creates opportunities for everybody, and he took advantage of those. The attention you have to give others and the movement that they have in their structure allowed him to get freed up a lot."

"He reaped the benefit of playing in that system."

The Sixers kept pace early against the Spurs, with Carter-Williams fearlessly driving into the paint for a series of short jumpers and Hollis Thompson hitting a pair of 3s.

Popovich called timeout with 3:44 left in the first quarter after Williams dunked over Duncan to tie it at 19.

Philadelphia's early success



76ers' Byron Mullens, left, and San Antonio Spurs' Austin Daye (23) chase a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 24, 2014, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 113-91.

awoke the Spurs and brought out the best in Daye. His athleticism and energy were just what San Antonio needed after a listless start.

"He's a skilled guy," Popovich said. "Obviously he can shoot it. But he's also a good passer. He knows how to play the game. It was good to be able to get him some time tonight."

San Antonio went on a 26-5 spurt bridging the first and second quarters, capped by a 19-0 run.

Daye first ran down Carter-Williams, swatting his layup attempt from behind, leading to Leonard's driving layup for a 23-19 lead with 3 minutes left in the opening quarter.

Mullens' 3-pointer snapped a 6 1/2-minute drought, but the Spurs were up 45-27 with 6:35 left in the first half.

Daye then stole an outlet pass on the run, driving directly at a backpedalling Mullens on a 3-on-1 break. Daye faked a behind-the-back pass to Duncan on the left and dished to Joseph on the right, who fed an open Duncan for a layup and a 47-27 lead.

"He got an opportunity," Duncan said. "He really stepped up and shot the ball really well. The boy is really long. He made some great plays defensively (and) rebounded the ball. He did a lot of good things out there."

The Spurs started Ginobili to give the team another facilitator on the court with Parker out. Ginobili did that and more, scoring seven points and grabbing two rebounds in eight minutes. He drove to the basket for a series of reverse layups, but was

blocked by the rim on a one-handed dunk attempt in starting 2 for 3 from the field.

San Antonio finished with 31 assists while shooting 56 percent from the field.

"It's tough," Carter-Williams said. "They move the ball really well with the extra pass. They try to move the ball and almost tire you out on defense. You got to be able to rotate and play throughout the shot clock."

The victory did little to satiate the Spurs or Popovich, who are hoping to return to the NBA Finals after falling to Miami last season in a heartbreaking seven-game series.

"We're playing well through this stretch and winning some games," Duncan said. "Pop is still not satisfied, obviously, with what we're doing. We want to stay healthy. We want to stay moving in the right direction."

"Hopefully we can ride this into the playoffs and feel good going into the playoffs."

## Heat 93, Trail Blazers 91

In Miami, LeBron James scored 32 points, including a layup with 11.4 seconds left, and Chris Bosh capped his 30th birthday by blocking Damian Lillard's layup in the final moments as the Miami Heat escaped with a win over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Bosh finished with 15 points and Chris Andersen had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Miami, which won for just the fifth time in 12 games. Mario Chalmers added 11 points for the Heat.

Lillard led the Blazers with 19 points on 3-for-15 shooting.

Mo Williams scored 17, Wes Matthews had 15, Nicolas Batum 11 and Robin Lopez 10 for Portland, which was down 17 with just more than 9 minutes remaining.

## Rockets 100, Bobcats 89

In Charlotte, North Carolina, James Harden scored 31 points and Dwight Howard had a double-double in his return to the court as the Houston Rockets defeated the Charlotte Bobcats for their fourth straight win.

Harden had 14 points in the pivotal third quarter and finished 11-of-19 from the field. Terrence Jones added 18 points and seven rebounds in the victory.

Howard had missed the previous three games with an ankle injury, but Houston won all three without him by an average of 23 points. He finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Kemba Walker had 22 points and Al Jefferson had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte, which lost for only the second time in 11 games at home.

## Suns 102, Hawks 95

In Atlanta, Eric Bledsoe scored 20 points to lead five Phoenix players in double figures as the Suns won their fourth in a row, beating the Atlanta Hawks to pull even with Dallas for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The Suns buried the Hawks from 3-point range, knocking down 12-of-24 beyond the arc. Bledsoe made all three of his long-range attempts, while Channing Frye was 4-of-9 to

account for the bulk of his 18 points. Goran Dragic had 19 points, Markieff Morris 17 and Gerald Green 13.

Atlanta, trying to hold the eighth spot in the East, lost its third in a row after a season-high five-game winning streak. Paul Millsap and DeMarre Carroll led the Hawks with 19 points apiece.

## Bulls 89, Pacers 77

In Chicago, Taj Gibson led five players in double figures with 23 points as the Chicago Bulls brushed off a poor offensive first half to rally past the Indiana Pacers.

Kirk Hinrich had 18 points on 7-for-13 shooting, Mike Dunleavy scored 13, Jimmy Butler 12 and Joakim Noah added 10 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Gibson, who was 9 for 15 from the field, also had eight rebounds in 32 minutes off the bench.

The Bulls (40-31) pulled within two percentage points of Toronto (39-30) for third place in the Eastern Conference.

The win also prevented Indiana from clinching the Central Division title on Chicago's home court. The Pacers are looking to win consecutive division crowns for the second time since joining the NBA (1998-99 and 1999-2000).

## Thunder 117, Nuggets 96

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 27 points and eight assists to help the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Denver Nuggets.

Caron Butler scored 23 points, his highest total since the Thunder added him right after the trade deadline. Reggie Jackson had 16 points and a career-high 11 assists, and Serge Ibaka added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Thunder, who won their fourth straight.

Durant, who was coming off a 51-point game against Toronto on Friday, is averaging 37 points during the winning streak. The Thunder sat point guard Russell Westbrook so he could rest his surgically repaired right knee.

Ty Lawson scored 25 points for the Nuggets, who had won three of four.

## Grizzlies 109, Timberwolves 92

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley had 23 points and six assists, Marc Gasol added 14 and 12 rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies built an early lead and easily dispatched the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves.

Zach Randolph finished with 17 points for Memphis, while Tayshaun Prince and Ed Davis added 12 points apiece. Mike Miller scored 11 as Memphis won its 10th straight home game.

Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 16 points, but shot 6-of-18 from the field, part of Minnesota shooting 38 percent

for the game. Corey Brewer had 15 points and Kevin Martin finished with 13. Gorgui Dieng, in the starting lineup because of injuries on Minnesota's front line, finished with 11 points and 17 rebounds.

## Pelicans 109, Nets 104, OT

In New Orleans, Tyreke Evans scored a season-high 33 points as the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans rallied from 22 down in the third quarter, beating the Brooklyn Nets.

Evans scored 14 as New Orleans closed the third period on a 29-10 run to get back in the game. Anthony Morrow, who did not score until the final 2 minutes of regulation, had 11 points the rest of the way as the Pelicans completed their comeback.

Morrow hit a 3-pointer to give New Orleans a 106-100 lead in overtime and sealed the victory with another 3 to make it 109-102 with 54.5 seconds left.

Paul Pierce had 24 points and Deron Williams 23 for the Nets, who lost for the first time in five games after winning at Dallas in overtime Sunday.

## Pistons 114, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, Andre Drummond had 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons shot a season-best 55 percent to blow by the Utah Jazz.

Rodney Stuckey scored 19, Greg Monroe had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Brandon Jennings added 15 points to help the Pistons snap a 14-game road losing streak in the finale of a four-game Western Conference trip.

Gordon Hayward scored 32 points—his highest total since he had 37 against Oklahoma City on Jan. 7—to lead the Jazz, who have lost seven of eight.

Detroit went 9 for 17 from 3-point range and ended a five-game losing streak.

## Clippers 106, Bucks 98

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 27 points and 14 rebounds as the Los Angeles Clippers made it consecutive 50-win seasons with a lackluster victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Clippers became the ninth NBA team to have different head coaches guide a club to 50 victories in back-to-back seasons. They reached the mark five games earlier under Doc Rivers than they did last season under Vinny Del Negro, when they set a franchise record with 56 wins and captured their first division title. This is Rivers' fifth 50-win season as a head coach, including four with Boston.

Chris Paul had 14 points and seven assists for the Clippers, who have won 13 of 14 overall and a season-best eight straight at home.

Newly acquired Ramon Sessions had a season-high 28 points for the Bucks, who have lost eight in a row and are a league-worst 13-58.



# Lots of favorites in Sweet 16

By JIM O'CONNELL  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The Billion Dollar Dream has been over for a while. Most bracket sheets are loaded with red X's. Still, there is plenty of March Madness ahead of us in the NCAA tournament's round of 16.

You want favorites? Three No. 1s—Florida, Arizona, Virginia—are alive and well after two rounds.

You want underdogs? How about three with double-digit seedings—Stanford, a 10, with 11s Dayton and Tennessee.

You want a rivalry? It's tough to beat Kentucky-Louisville.

You want rematches? Besides Kentucky-Louisville there is Arizona-San Diego State.

You get the point. Four days, 12 games. It's regional weekend when the Sweet 16 is cut to the Final Four. Enjoy.

## **SOUTH REGIONAL, Memphis, Tenn., Thursday-Saturday.**

The game that guarantees a winner with a double-digit seeding, Stanford vs. Dayton, will be followed by the overall top seed, Florida, facing a familiar tournament opponent in UCLA.

Stanford gets to wear home whites after beating New Mexico and Kansas. The Cardinal are in the round of 16 for the first time since 2008, the last time they were in the tournament. They haven't given up more than 57 points and they have been great at the free throw line.

Dayton followed the win over Ohio State with a squeaker over Syracuse and the Flyers are in the round of 16 for the first time since 1984. They got here with two wins by a total of three points and they have yet to break 60, but they have done just enough. Coach Archie Miller couldn't meet his brother Sean and Arizona until the national semifinals.

Florida has lived up to its billing as the overall No. 1 seed. The Gators have increased their



Virginia's London Perrantes (23) Mike Tobey (10), and other players celebrate after the second half of an NCAA college basketball third-round tournament game against Memphis, Sunday, March 23, 2014, in Raleigh, N.C. Virginia won, 78-60.

winning streak to 28 games with a couple of double-figure victories. This is their fourth straight year in the round of 16, the longest current streak.

UCLA won both its games by 17 points and the Bruins have won five straight and seven of eight, including an upset of Arizona. This is their first Sweet 16 appearance since 2008.

Florida beat UCLA in the national championship game in 2006 and in the national semifinals the following season. The Gators also eliminated the Bruins in the second round in 2011.

## **WEST REGIONAL, Anaheim, Calif., Thursday-Saturday.**

This is the closest any of the regions came to having seeds 1-4 advance. Top-seeded Arizona, No. 2 Wisconsin and No. 4 San Diego State are still playing along with seventh-seeded Baylor.

Arizona was impressive on

defense in dispatching Gonzaga in the third round and the Wildcats are in the round of 16 for the third time in four years.

San Diego State finally showed its defensive prowess in a third-round win over North Dakota State, which had a season-low 44 points.

These teams met in San Diego on Nov. 14 and Arizona won 69-60 behind the 23 points of Nick Johnson. The Wildcats were ranked No. 6 at the time and four weeks later were No. 1, a spot they held for eight weeks.

Wisconsin is going from facing one set of highlighter yellow uniforms to another. The Badgers beat Oregon to get to the Sweet 16 after missing to get there last season. Frank Kaminsky, who had 19 points against Oregon, will be in for quite a test against Baylor's tall, athletic front line.

The Bears come in off a 30-point demolition of Creigh-

ton in which they held Doug McDermott, the nation's leading scorer, to 15 points. They won't be able to concentrate on one of the Badgers, who have six players averaging from 13.4 points to 7.9 points.

## **EAST REGIONAL, New York, Friday-Sunday.**

The NCAA tournament hasn't been in Madison Square Garden since 1961. One of the teams headed there this week has some great memories already of the building known as "the world's most famous arena."

Virginia, the quietest of the four No. 1s, played its kind of game—good defense and patient offense—in beating Memphis by 18 points. That got the Cavaliers to the round of 16 for the first time since 1995. They are the sole team remaining from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Michigan State was the na-

tion's pick for the national championship even if it was a No. 4 seed. The injuries are a thing of the past and the Spartans look like the team that held the No. 1 ranking this season. They had their hands full with Harvard in the third round, but pulled away in the final minutes.

Third-seeded Iowa State was able to overcome the loss of third-leading scorer Georges Niang to a broken foot by beating North Carolina in a game that came down to DeAndre Kane's driving basket with 1.6 seconds to play. The Cyclones, in the regional semifinals for the first time since 2000, are still a team with plenty of scorers.

Connecticut won a record seven Big East tournament titles at Madison Square Garden, the last in 2011 when Kemba Walker led them to the national championship. Shabazz Napier was a freshman on that team and he's doing a solid imitation

of Walker as he averaged 24.5 points in the two wins that has the Huskies in the Sweet 16 a year after they weren't eligible for the tournament over academic sanctions.

## **MIDWEST REGIONAL, Indianapolis, Friday-Saturday.**

Indianapolis is about to be invaded by people from the commonwealth of Kentucky. Those wearing red are for Louisville, those wearing blue are for the University of Kentucky. There will be fans of Tennessee and Michigan in town, but they will be hard to notice with all those Kentuckians in for a visit.

Tennessee, a No. 11 seed, is the third team that played in the First Four to reach the regional semifinals. The Volunteers have won eight of nine with the only loss to Florida in the SEC tournament. They reached the Sweet 16 with a frontcourt dismantling of Mercer, outrebounding the team that beat Duke 41-19.

Second-seeded Michigan is in the round of 16 for the second straight year and the Wolverines are trying to get back to the national championship game where they lost to Louisville. Nik Stauskas led an outside attack that saw Michigan make 14 3-pointers in a third-round win over Texas.

Kentucky beat Louisville 73-66 just days after Christmas in the schools' annual meeting. This one is going to be on a higher level as Kentucky's roster of high school stars meets a Louisville squad that features key players who were on last season's national championship team.

Kentucky, the preseason No. 1, did what no other team could do this season—beat Wichita State. In what has to be the best game of the tournament so far, the Wildcats played above their years in handing the Shockers their first loss of the season.

Louisville is in the round of 16 for the third straight year and the great news for the Cardinals is that Naismith Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 16-0 in the regional semifinals. His team has won 14 of its last 15 games overall and eight straight in the NCAA tournament.

# Ortiz says Boston is 'place I want to be'



**SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)—**David Ortiz

wants to finish his career with the Boston Red Sox.

"I love playing the game. I love being part of this organization, and knowing that you're going to finish your career here," the 38-year-old said Monday. "It's something that's a huge accomplishment."

Due \$15 million in 2014 in the final season of a two-year deal, Ortiz agreed Sunday to a new contract that calls for a \$16 million salary in 2015 and could be worth up to \$48 million over

three years.

Ortiz's contract includes a \$10 million club option for 2016 that could escalate to \$16 million and become guaranteed, and a club option for 2017, also at \$10 million to \$16 million.

"This is the place I want to be," the 38-year-old designated hitter said. "This is the place that I know."

Ortiz said the agreement will make him "stress less."

A nine-time All-Star during 11 seasons with Boston, Ortiz has 431 major league homers. Big Papi and the Red Sox have spent a lot of time discussing his future—one year at a time.

"I guess you guys get tired of me talking about contracts all the time," he said. "At least I'm going to have some time off from answering questions dealing with the contract situation."

Ortiz's 2016 option would become guaranteed at \$11 million if he has 425 plate appearances the previous year and passes a team physical. If he passes the physical, it would become guaranteed at \$12 million for 475 plate appearances, \$13 million for 525, \$14 million for 500 and \$15 million for 575. If he has 600 plate appearances, it would become guaranteed at the higher of \$16 million or the

qualifying offer price for free agents—the average of the top 125 major league contracts by average annual value.

If Ortiz doesn't pass the physical, the 2016 club option price would be the midpoint of \$10 million and the figure for whatever threshold he reached.

The 2017 club option would escalate at the same prices and thresholds as the 2016 vesting option.

Ortiz was MVP of last year's World Series, when Boston won its third title in 10 years. He batted .309 with 30 home runs and 103 RBIs last season after returning from a strained right

Achilles tendon that limited him to 90 games in 2012.

"This virtually guarantees that David will finish his career with the Red Sox," general manager Ben Cherington said. "It means that David will be in the middle of the lineup for longer."

If Ortiz plays through 2017, he would be nearing his 42nd birthday.

"In a lot of different ways, David is an outlier. He's an exception to the rule," Cherington said. "There are just not many guys who produce at the level he has at this point in their career."

Ortiz was reminded that

only Ted Williams was as productive as he was this late in a Red Sox career.

"I know what I need to do to continue to be successful," Ortiz said. "There's going to be the day when I don't feel like doing what I normally do, and when that happens, everybody's going to know it. I feel hungry. Winning is good. I feel hungry."

Ortiz is one of only a handful of fulltime designated hitter, with many teams preferring to have different players share at-bats.

"American League teams are doing that because they don't have David Ortiz," Cherington said. "At some point in the future, he doesn't feel like he can do what he's been doing, but we don't see that time is coming any time soon."



# Pistorius trial: Cell phone texts show tensions

**PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)**—Oscar Pistorius and Reeva Steenkamp argued fiercely in the turbulent weeks before he killed her, and the athlete’s girlfriend told him she was sometimes scared by his behavior, which included jealous outbursts in front of other people, according to phone messages revealed at the Olympian’s murder trial on Monday.

“I’m scared of u sometimes and how u snap at me and of how u will react to me,” Reeva Steenkamp texted Pistorius, in a message read out in court by police Capt. Francois Moller.

In another message, Steenkamp wrote to the double-amputee runner: “I can’t be attacked by outsiders for dating u AND be attacked by you, the one person I deserve protection from.”

The messages suggested both lovers were experiencing emotional insecurity, though the exchanges revealed in court reflected prosecutors’ efforts to portray Pistorius as an aggressor with a short fuse, matching earlier testimony from a former girlfriend who had said

he sometimes shouted at her. In one message, the runner indicated Steenkamp had not told him the full story about smoking “weed,” or using drugs, while she defended past conduct with the declaration: “I wasn’t a stripper or a ‘ho,’” a slang term for prostitute.

The court adjourned with Moller expected to return to the witness box on Tuesday. He has not yet revealed if police recovered any phone messages or communications from the night of the killing on Feb. 14, 2013.

Moller said that from Steenkamp’s phone he obtained more than 1,000 exchanges with Pistorius on WhatsApp and other phone messaging applications. Moller said he received as evidence two BlackBerry phones, two iPhones, two iPads and a Mac computer from Pistorius’ house the day after the shooting death of Steenkamp.

The data on Steenkamp’s phone would print to more than 35,000 pages, said Moller. Of the fraction of exchanges between the couple, he said that about 90 percent were what he called normal and “loving” ex-

changes. In Steenkamp’s message about being scared of the athlete, she also added: “You make

me happy 90% of the time and I think we are amazing together.” She goes on to talk about Pistorius snapping at her about

chewing gum and talking in an accent, and then writes: “I just want to love and be loved. Be happy and make someone SO

happy. Maybe we can’t do that for each other. Cos right now I know u aren’t happy and I am certainly very unhappy and sad.”

## PIC Hafa Adai 5K gets support from Triple J

The PIC Hafa Adai 5k is elated to welcome both Triple J Motors and Triple J Wholesale to the growing family of sponsors assisting the April 26 race.

Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele said that he and his team are excited to be a part of this inaugural event. Triple J Motors has donated 10 \$500 discount certificates to be used on the purchase of any new or pre-owned vehicle. Conditions do apply.

“PIC is one of the leaders in fun, community events and Triple J Motors is proud to be sponsoring this event. We hope that everyone can come down at the 5K event and join the fun,” Steele said.

“Randy and his team are always there for our PIC Signature events,” said PIC op-



PIC SEA director Glenn Policare, center, receives the donation for the PIC Hafa Adai 5K Run from Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele, left, during a brief turnover ceremony in Beach Road, Garapan recently.

erations and events manager Dennis Tababa. “To have Triple J Motors on board once again just goes to show the level of commitment they have to our community-based events.”

As for Triple J Wholesale, it has offered a discount sale to race participants.

“Just bring in your race bib on April 26 to Triple J Wholesale and receive 10% off your purchase,” said Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods general manager Jay Santos. “Our team will be out manning the last aid station and cheering all of you on. This is a great event and we hope

## SAKANO

From Page 28

pez, 4-6, but came back in the last two, 6-2, 6-1, to retain the championship.

Lopez arranged a finals rematch with Minor after shutting down Carol Lee, 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls U14 singles, Isabel Heras swept all her foes to top the nine-player field. She completed her perfect record in the division after a 6-2, 6-1 title win over Tania Tan last Sunday.

Heras was at the lower half of the draw and started her bid with an impressive 6-0, 6-0 win over Julia Ishikawa. Up next for Heras was Malika Miyawaki, a 6-3, 6-4 victor over Ami Tsukagoshi, and the former won in straight sets, too, 6-3, 6-0, to set up a finals showdown with the top-seeded Tan.

Tan also needed only two sets in down Contsu Kaga, 6-3, 6-0, and Mimi Sakano, 6-2, 6-0, to bag the finals berth at the top half of the draw. Kaga forced a first round tiff against Tan af-

ter ousting Asia Raulerson last Friday, 6-0, 6-3, while Sakano barged into the semis after a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Grace Choi.

In the boys U14, Luther Lizama bested six other players. He notched the division championship after making short work of Ren in last Sunday’s afternoon title match, 6-1, 6-2. Lizama made it to the finals after eliminating Robbie Schorr, 6-3, 7-5, and Tudela, 6-1, 6-0.

Ren, on the other hand, needed only one victory to advance to the finals, downing Tony Kim

in the semis, 6-3, 6-2. Kim dominated Woon Sun Cho, 6-3, 6-1, to move into the semis against Ren, who drew a bye in the opening round.

After falling short in his boys U14 singles campaign, Kim triumphed in the boys U12 division, defeating Ken Song in the finals, 6-0, 6-2. Kim clinched a finals berth after booting out Ji Min Woo, 6-1, 6-1, while Song booked a finals ticket, following a 6-2, 6-3 win over Sean Lee. Lee swept Daniel Kang, 6-1, 6-1, to arrange a semis duel

against Song.

In the girls U12 singles, the finale went the distance with Coume Kaga slipping past Jireh Warren, 6-4, 6-7 (9-3), 6-2. The battle of the Top 2 seeds in the draw took place after Kaga and Warren gained two wins. Kaga edged Erika Tuttle, 6-4, 6-2, and Riko Ojima, 6-4, 6-1, in the bottom half of the draw. At the top half, Warren endured Maria Gregoire, 4-6, 6-2, 10-4, and had another close victory over Susan Sablan in the semifinals, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

## ENFORCERS

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nings, logging six earned runs. The Falcons then gained four runs off the Ol’Aces errors at the top of the fourth and two more off a stolen base and a Dennis Teregeyo RBI single to pad their lead and put pressure on the Ol’Aces, going into the last inning.

The Ol’Aces needed at least

seven runs to extend the game, but made only one off Trevon Lieto’s RBI single. Lieto drove home C.J. Kaipat with only one out and the former went on to reach third base, but was stranded, as Enforcers closer Troy Laniyo struck out the Ol’Aces’ last two batters.

Laniyo came in for Ignacio Mendiola in the third inning and allowed the Ol’Aces only two hits, while striking out four and walking two. Men-

diola threw a no-hitter in the first two innings, walked one, and got three strikeouts.

### IP&E Rockies 9, Red Sox 3

In the third Major division game last Sunday, IP&E ended its three-game losing skid after beating the Red Sox.

IP&E allowed the Red Sox to score only in the fourth inning to claim its third win in eight games. Tyrese Cama-

cho pitched IP&E to win, as he got nine strikeouts in six innings and gave up only one earned run and two hits.

The Red Sox made the one earned run off Jode Reyes’ RBI double in the fourth inning and they collected two more runs in that frame from IP&E’s miscues. Despite the Red Sox’s three-run top of the fourth, IP&E still led, 6-3, and gained more cushion in the next inning, as the latter

shut down the former at the top of the fifth, while racking up three runs at the bottom.

Then at the top of the last inning, IP&E moved one run away from earning the early decision when the Red Sox’s first two batters were booted out. A hit by pitch on Zachary Camacho halted IP&E’s bid to end the game quickly, but Tyrese Camacho redeemed himself from the error when he struck out Kelvin Foreman.

## INDEPENDENTS

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Goalie Pratoom Stoffer leads Matansa’s side, which also listed Amando Agulto, Maile Aldrich, Tawny Barcinas, Elizabeth Basa, Bunruang Brasuelle, Devannie Camacho, Katrine Castro, Elna Curate, Ditwiset Ratree, Nimei Geroge, Jumlong Horey, Benikina and Kelsey Lizama, Agne Mongami, Justice Norman, Veisia Peteru, Isabel Reyes, Jacqueline Route, Melanie Santos, Sabrina Santos, and Cristy Villaflor as members.

Beside Matansa FC and IFC, five other teams are com-

peting in this season’s 11 vs 11 contest. Completing the field are MP United FC, Tan Holdings FC, Kanoa FC, Shirley’s FC, and Paire FC. The league will have a double-round robin format in the regular season, while playoff rules have yet to be determined.

### Kanoa FC 5, Shirley’s FC 1

In the second game in the opening day, Kanoa FC dominated Shirley’s FC.

Kanoa drew goals from five different players to have a winning debut in the seven-team league.

Lalaine Pagarao put Kanoa in the board with her goal in the 28th minute and the team

ended the first half with a 2-0 advantage, as Jurinah Navarro made a last-minute goal.

Kanoa then scored early in the second half, courtesy of Marielle Gariguez’s goal in the 49th minute, while Shirley’s FC finally broke the spell off Alexa Vergara’s conversion in the 54th minute.

Two more goals in a span of five minutes handed Kanoa the easy victory. Friendly Joy Pena made it to the board in the 64th minute, while Mariebell Aldan canned the last goal in the game five minutes later.

### MP United FC 6, Tan Holdings FC 1

In the third game, MP United

clobbered Tan Holdings FC.

Manami Tadokoro led MP United’s lopsided win over Tan Holdings with her pair of goals. Michelle Kautz, Karleen Reyes, Lydia Tan, and Masami Sato added one goal apiece.

Tan Holdings absorbed a tough beating at the hands of MP United despite scoring first off Yvonne Zhu’s goal in the 14th minute.

MP United quickly evened up the count with Kautz recording the equalizer two minutes later. Tadokoro then tallied her two goals in back-to-back fashion, hitting her first one in the 34th and the second two minutes later to

to see you all after the raffle.”

“Triple J has always partnered up with PIC for community events. The promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle is at the core of our relationship so this partnership just made sense,” said PIC SEA director Glenn Policare.

The Hafa Adai 5K will have participants passing through four coloring stations along the 5K route. Volunteers will celebrate each participant’s arrival with a splash of either blue, yellow, pink or red colored corn starch. This biodegradable and non-toxic mixture will have participants laughing all the way from station to station.

Entry forms are available at the PIC front Desk and at Saipan Shell Stations. Entry fees are only \$10 and the first 500 paid entries will receive a free limited edition event shirt. Proceeds from the Hafa Adai 5K will go to the CNMI Salvation Army. For more information, contact Tababa at dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com or call 237-5147. (PIC)

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	39	30	.565	—
Brooklyn	37	32	.536	2
New York	29	41	.414	10½
Boston	23	47	.329	16½
Philadelphia	15	56	.211	25

#### Southeast Division

x-Miami	48	21	.696	—
Washington	36	34	.514	12½
Charlotte	34	37	.479	15
Atlanta	31	38	.449	17
Orlando	19	52	.268	30

#### Central Division

x-Indiana	51	20	.718	—
Chicago	40	31	.563	11
Cleveland	27	44	.380	24
Detroit	26	44	.371	24½
Milwaukee	13	58	.183	38

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	54	16	.771	—
Houston	48	22	.686	6
Memphis	42	28	.600	12
Dallas	42	29	.592	12½
New Orleans	30	40	.429	24

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	52	18	.743	—
Portland	45	26	.634	7½
Minnesota	34	35	.493	17½
Denver	32	39	.451	20½
Utah	23	48	.324	29½

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	50	21	.704	—
Golden State	44	27	.620	6
Phoenix	42	29	.592	8
Sacramento	25	45	.357	24½
L.A. Lakers	23	46	.333	26

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# MP United FC at Pacific Ocean Cup in Japan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



MP United FC players and officials pose for a photo in one of the tourist spots in Japan before competing in the Pacific Ocean Cup in Shizuoka last week.



Hamasuka FC players line up, while waiting for the start of their game against MP United.



MP United players and members of the four other teams pose for a group photo.



MP United's Sun Joon Tenorio practices a fancy move.



MP United goalie Steven Goodwin heads back to the bench.



MP United players pose for a photo with Vivid Blue U6 players.



MP United players join Vivid Blue players at center court before kicking off their match.



MP United players enjoy a light moment with Vivid Blue players.



MP United and Vivid Blue players engage in a fun game.



Players line up, waiting for the announcement of the winner of the MVP award, which Sun Joon Tenorio won.





Spurs win 14th straight, 76ers' skid now at 25

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Lots of favorites in Sweet 16

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Sakano gets first U18 title in PIC tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Third time's the charm for Amami Sakano, as he finally bagged the boys U18 crown in the 14th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships.

Sakano, who fell short in his division title bid in the same tournament in 2012 and 2013, this time reached his target after beating Michael Ren in last Saturday's finale, 6-2, 6-4, at the PIC hard court.

Sakano, who lost to Christian Miller in the semifinals in the 2012 edition of the competition and was runner-up to Rafael Jones in 2013, got another shot at the boys U18 crown, following a 6-0, 6-2 semis victory over Vincent Tudela last Friday.

In the other semis pairing, Ren won via walkover against Jake Lee. Earlier in the quar-

terfinals, Lee eliminated Colin Ramsey, 6-4, 7-5, to bag the fourth and last semis ticket.

Meanwhile, five other junior singles events were played in Week 1 of the annual tourna-

ment.



In the girls U18 singles, Thea Minor successfully defended her championship. Minor, who is playing in her last junior year, survived two

three-set matches to clinch the girls U18 tiara. She first slipped past Negahr Rastguiry in the semifinals, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0. The in the finals, Minor also dropped the opening set set Mikayla Lo-

See **SAKANO** on Page 26

## Enforcers, IT&E rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Enforcers and IT&E took the short route to victory in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League after earning early decisions last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An Enforcers pitcher makes eye contact with his catcher during an earlier game against the Falcons in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

four innings and had 12 strikeouts. The IT&E pitching ace forced the Jets to 1-2-3 inning on three occasions. The only time he missed getting the first three strikeouts was in the third inning when he walked the Jets' third batter Nathan Aizon with two outs. Aizon remained at first base, as Kapileo struck out Eldon Rife for the last out.

While Kyle Kapileo held his own on defense, Philip Kapileo and Spencer Dickinson provided some spark to IT&E's offense. Philip was 2-for-3 at bat and scored three RBIs. He had back-to-back base hits after being struck out in the second inning, blasting a two-run single in the third and an RBI single in the fourth. Dickinson added two RBIs, connecting on an RBI triple in the first inning and another RBI triple in the fourth.

Meanwhile, in the Enforcers-Ol'Aces tiff, the former scored in all four innings to notch the easy win. They zoomed to a 10-0 advantage after three in-

See **ENFORCERS** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Amami Sakano serves, while teammate Tommy Choi gets ready near the net during their men's doubles title match against Luke Beling and Jeff Race in the PIC tennis tournament last Sunday at the PIC hardcourts.

## Independents wins women's league opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 2014 NMIFA Women's League kicked off last Saturday with Independents FC winning over Matansa FC, 1-0, in the opening game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Farleen Esmundo scored the first goal of the season with her shot in the 13th minute. Joining Esmundo on the IFC roster are Sarah and Terra Allen, Mel and Melissa



Borja, Laurea Briosos, Ericka Dela Rosa, Dyenina Diaz, Amy Furnare, Temary and Vanessa Gramlich, Leah Legacion, Lina Manalili, Cleo Nening, Reena Patel, Catherine Perry, Miles Rodriguez, Cailin Trasmano, and Jhie Vallo.

See **INDEPENDENTS** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa FC player runs into the defense of an Independents FC player during the first half of the opening game in the NMIFA women's league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.